

Hafa Adai!

KCHC gets \$300K to build a dental clinic. PAGE 5  
\$5M grant to protect reefs, combat invasive species. PAGE 8

75¢

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

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WITH NO OPPOSITION IN COMMITTEE

## HR 560 goes to House floor

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

After nearly eight months at the committee level, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) H.R. 560 was pushed out of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources yesterday with no opposition, setting the stage for the bill to be taken up on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

H.R. 560, which proposes to provide permanent resident status to long-term foreign workers in the CNMI, or CW workers, was marked up at the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources early yesterday morning with only one amendment. Sablan's amendment, which carried, removed sections of the legislation that included providing permanent resident status to immigration parolees in the CNMI.

With the enactment of H.R.



559, which provides resident status to immigration parolees, there is no longer a need for such language in H.R. 560. "Today, H.R. 560 continues

See HR 560 on Page 4

Photo taken from the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources website shows Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) during yesterday's committee hearing on H.R. 560 and other bills. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



### 'I PLEDGE'

Students of the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School sign the "Tell Me" pledge of the Youth Affairs Office during yesterday's mental health fair. The "Tell Me" pledge is a nationwide campaign where everybody in the community can pledge to start talking about suicide.

IVA MAURIN

Story on  
Page 6

## Chinese arrivals at lowest in a while

By MARC A. VENUS  
marc\_venus@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

from Shanghai and two from Guangzhou.

He blames the dip in the ar-

rival numbers of Chinese tourists on the ongoing trade war,

See CHINESE on Page 4

With the ongoing protests in Hong Kong and the trade war between the U.S. and China, the number of Chinese tourists visiting the CNMI are at their lowest in the last several years.

Speaking at a recent Marianas Visitors Authority board meeting, board member Thomas T.H. Liu reported that arrivals from China were 15% off last year's mark at 18,356 visitors in July.

Liu notes that Saipan currently has six flights from China, with four coming

## Mendiola is new DFEMS chief

Dennis James C. Mendiola has been named the new commissioner of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

He will replace assistant fire chief Juan A. Pua, who has been the acting DFEMS commissioner since May.

A former resident deputy



Mendiola

commissioner serving the Rota DFEMS, Mendiola is also a retired captain in the U.S. Army, a former chairman of the Luta Soil and Water Conservation, and a son of Rota.

See MENDIOLA on Page 4

## AS SOLOMONS EMBRACES CHINA Taiwan loses biggest Pacific ally

By NICK PERRY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Taiwan has lost its largest ally in the Pacific

after the Solomon Islands confirmed Tuesday that it is switching diplomatic allegiance to China, and observers say other Pacific nations may

See TAIWAN on Page 4



## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

Food To Come is a new meal delivery service that brings your food right to your door.

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### WORLD

Missile fragments that Saudi Arabia recovered bear similarities to Iranian-made weapons.

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### LIFE & STYLE

Melania Trump will have a few new touches to showcase at the White House.

PAGE 25



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## Local

### Suspected 'ice' trafficker arrested

CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force officers arrested anew last Wednesday a woman who allegedly sold methamphetamine or "ice" at her house near the Chalan Kanoa cemetery.

DETF agents arrested again Xyleene Dela Rosa Palacios, 33, for allegedly not cooperating with law enforcement in ongoing investigations, in violation of their agreement.

At her initial appearance in court yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan imposed a \$100,000 cash bail on Palacios.

Preliminary hearing will be on Sept. 26.

Assistant public defender Jean Pierre Nogues was appointed as her counsel. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

DETF officer Maridel T. Camacho stated in court documents that they first arrested Palacios last March 15 for trafficking methamphetamine. He said that a cooperating source twice bought "ice" from Palacios at her home in December 2018.

Upon being arrested, Palacios allegedly agreed to become a confidential informant in exchange for her release without cash bail. DETF agreed and asked the court to release Palacios and seal the case.

Early this week, DETF asked the court to revoke her release, re-arrest her, and unseal the case. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



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# Motion to dismiss, suspend Hillbroom's lawsuit denied

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Junior Larry Hillbroom's lawsuit against two of his former lawyers that was first filed in 2009 will likely go to trial after the U.S. District Court for the NMI denied yesterday two motions filed by the lawyers.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied Vietnam-based lawyer Barry J. Israel's motion to dismiss Hillbroom's lawsuit, and also denied Guam lawyer David J. Lujan's motion to suspend proceeding in the lawsuit.

Israel cited the court's lack of jurisdiction in his motion, while Lujan cited Hillbroom as a fugitive.

Manglona said a written decision would be forthcoming.

Not everything is settled, though. There will still be a hearing on Israel's motion for summary judgment, or alternatively, partial judgment on Oct. 10, 2019.

At yesterday's hearing, Israel and his counsel, Theodore Frank, appeared. Lujan and Hillbroom's former trustee, Keith Waibel, represented themselves.

Attorneys Rachel Dimitruk, Nelson Werner, and Mark Hanson appeared on behalf of Hillbroom.

All parties, except for Hanson, appeared telephonically.

In Israel's motion to dismiss, Frank argued that the

District Court should dismiss the lawsuit for lack of jurisdiction because discovery has concluded that Hillbroom has failed to produce any evidence of extrinsic fraud—the pur-

ported basis for jurisdiction in this case.

Frank said that Waibel, with the help of his subsequent lawyers, concocted false allegations of extrinsic fraud against

Israel and Lujan.

In Lujan's motion to suspend the proceedings, Lujan asserted that the Palau Court had issued a warrant for Hillbroom's arrest in January 2019.

He said Hillbroom is a fugitive from the courts of Palau as he has willfully defied the warrant by refusing to surrender and shows no intention to

See **MOTION** on Next Page

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## More improvements pushed for Paupau Beach

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

With a bill that allocates over \$39,000 to build a new playground at Paupau Beach already enacted, Precinct IV Rep. Joel Camacho's (R-Saipan) sees that as the start of more improvements of not just at Paupau Beach but also the Capital Hill area.

With Camacho's House Local Bill 21-25 enacted Thursday last week, he said he eventually wishes to make more improvements in the Paupau Beach area, including a possible beach volleyball court.

"I reprogrammed some of

the remaining balances to a pot for the final payment to make sure it is funded," he noted, referring to H.L.B. 21-25. The legislation collects the remaining balances from previous appropriations and directed it toward a new playground at Paupau Beach. He was able to collect over \$39,000 for the project.

"I will hopefully work with [Department of Public Works] to include a beach volleyball court. I want to do it...[sooner] but the Public School System was [a higher] priority," he noted.

"Next time around, or in the next funding cycle, I want

to try and fix up a beach volleyball court on Capit[a] Hill or Paupau Beach so that we can...start a sports program," he said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres enacted H.L.B. 21-25 last Thursday afternoon at the Governor's Office conference room. The legislation is now known as Saipan Local Law 21-6.

Although the legislation had already been enacted, Camacho noted that groundbreaking on the project has yet to start.

"The contractors will be going back to the drawing board and then go back to the site to see how they will break

ground," he said.

"I will be meeting with the

Department of Public Works to get some feedback. Hope-

fully [the contractors] will start soon."

## TAIWAN

From Page 1

soon follow.

The switch has geopolitical significance that will be felt as far away as Washington because the Solomon Islands are located directly between Australia and the U.S. and were the site of fierce battles during World War II.

Alex Akwai, a spokesman for Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare, said the government's caucus took a poll on Monday, with 27 lawmakers voting in favor

together will lead to collective success for our department and our government," he said.

Mendiola received his bachelor's degree in Public Administration with a minor in Military Science from the University of Guam. He is currently working on his master's degree in Public Administration with a capstone in Human Resources from the American Military University.

Mendiola's service in the U.S. Army encompasses training and certification in weapons of mass destruction, confined space operation, and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear operations, along with numerous tours to several countries. He was commissioned as an air defense officer and was detailed to the chemical corps. He was medically discharged in 2015. **(PR)**

company where he currently works, the management did not apply to renew his CW-1 permit, thinking it is too much work, now that there are additional requirements from the U.S. Department of Labor.

"My company is having trouble with complying with all of our salaries as stated in the prevailing wage, so they did not bother to renew my CW permit," he said.

With his company's decision to let go of all their CW-1 workers, Ernie will soon be out of work.

Jessica, who had been on Saipan since 1996 when she was just 24 years old, also hopes for a favorable outcome on H.R. 560. "Permanent resident status is important for me so that I won't have trouble anymore with my employer every time it is renewal season," she said.

"I arrived on Saipan at the age of 24. I am now 48. ... Saipan is [now] my second home," she said, adding that she was only able to visit her family in the Philippines four times in 24 years. "I am the breadwinner for my family, so I have to keep working for their sake," she added.

## MENDIOLA

From Page 1

This means he will bring years of emergency management, environmental awareness, and military experience to DFEMS, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who announced Mendiola's appointment yesterday.

"Dennis is a young, driven, and accomplished public servant who has demonstrated leadership in every position he has held, whether it be in DFEMS, in the Army, or volunteering his time within the community on Rota. He is an advocate for protecting lives during emergencies and community service," said Torres. "Lt. Gov. [Arnold I.] Palacios and I are confident that he will serve the Commonwealth admirably."

Torres added that Mendiola's appointment is part of the administration's priority to include residents from Rota and Tinian in the Cabinet. "His experience and ability to work with our firefighters on all three islands will bring efficiency and innovation for the department," Torres said.

Mendiola said he intends to continue the work that DFEMS has done in terms of protecting the community during emergencies and to increase efficiency and to promote innovation in its services.

"...It is my goal to ensure that our firefighters and emergency medical technicians promote our department's mission of saving lives and protecting property," Mendiola said.

He also thanked Torres and Palacios for including individuals from Rota and Tinian in the Cabinet. "This 'One

Marianas' mindset is an important priority. ...For Corrections Commissioner [Wally] Villagomez from Tinian and myself from Rota to serve the Commonwealth really reflects bringing everyone from the Marianas together to make lives better for every single person who calls these islands home," he added.

Mendiola looks forward to creating partnerships between the government and the community that he said will be a critical component to the effectiveness of DFEMS' services.

"Collaboration with both government agencies and community organizations will be important in our work as firefighters and EMTs. My goal is to work with others and to really hone in on this 'One Marianas' mindset that benefits the people of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Working to-

*to be quoted in this story asked that their real names be withheld.)*

Saturnina has been an accountant on Saipan since 2001. "I've been here for half my life," she said. "I am really hopeful and still praying that H.R. 560 is enacted before Sept. 30, 2019 because we are really running out of time."

Saturnina is one of 16 employees of a small business that supplies goods to retailers and merchandisers. To date, no one in their company has an approved CW-1 worker for fiscal year 2020 yet, Saturnina said.

Another long-term CW-1 worker, Ernie, has been on Saipan since 2006. He told *Saipan Tribune* that the convenience of freely entering and leaving the Marianas with peace of mind is ideal for both long-term workers and employers.

"I believe having a stable source of manpower for every business will instill peace of mind for everyone since it benefits the whole spectrum of residents in the Marianas due to the improved economic activity," he said.

Ernie is actually in a precarious position now. In the

## CHINESE

From Page 1

the devaluation of the renminbi, RMB, or Chinese currency to that of the U.S. dollar, and China's economy, which, after many years of runaway growth, has reportedly entered a slower—and more normal—pace of growth.

Before this, the Chinese market was considered the CNMI's No. 1 source market for tourists. The CNMI's other major source markets are South Korea and Japan.

Liu cited the ongoing protests in Hong Kong as playing a part in the shortage of arrivals via Hong Kong Express, which provides charter flights to Saipan. He said that they have been aggressively marketing the CNMI in China as a tourist destination and will do everything they can in order to increase arrival numbers.

MVA board member Jerry Tan agreed with Liu's comments that the impact of the Hong Kong protests are impacting the arrival numbers. Tan also pointed out that the months of August and September are the slower months in terms of arrival numbers as the summer season is ending.

Tan said there are still flights arriving from China right now, but United Airlines will soon discontinue flights from China on Oct. 14, Hong

Kong Airlines waved goodbye this month, and Hong Kong Express is still averaging lower arrivals.

"The China market is currently facing a bigger challenge this year as the CNMI is still undergoing recovery from Super Typhoon Yutu, but at the same time the U.S.-China trade war is happening," Tan said. He believes that, with the ongoing tensions, the Chinese economy is affected and that means a different behavior among Chinese tourists.

MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce states that China issues are not only impacting the CNMI but other destinations as well. She describes the case of Hong Kong as very serious and may have strong impacts on the tourism industry. "We need to be cognizant...that these situations are beyond the MVA's control, but we need to continue marketing overseas so that we do not lose our face in the markets. ... Otherwise they will stop coming here, and that will have severe implications for the entire economy," she said.

An online report in Forbes state that the number of Chinese tourists dropped by more than 23% in Hawaii in the first four months of 2019, compared to the same period last year. In Arizona, incoming Chinese tourists declined by 3.7% in 2018 after quadrupling from 2010 to 2017.

from Palau courts.

Hillbroom is suing Israel and Lujan for allegedly conspiring with Waibel to inflate their contingency fee when the fortune of the late DHL Worldwide Express co-founder Larry Hillblom was still undergoing probate proceedings in the Superior Court. Israel and Lujan have denied the allegations.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of Hillblom. His name is spelled differently from that of Hillblom.

## HR 560

From Page 1

the work of smoothing over the rough places in the application of national immigration law to my isolated district," Sablan said at the committee meeting.

"[H.R. 560] provides the same permanent status—in the Marianas only—that U.S. President Donald Trump approved for parolees in June," he added, referring H.R. 559.

"This time, we want to give stability to a small group of investors who were there even before federal immigration. And we want to give the same certainty to a group of long-term workers—and to the businesses that employ them," Sablan said.

Sablan introduced H.R. 560 on Jan. 15, 2019. It seeks to provide an improved immigration status to individuals who have lived in the CNMI since Nov. 28, 2009; is not a citizen of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, nor the Republic of Palau; among a few requirements to be eligible for the status in the legislation.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that, while there is no definite date yet on when the House intends to take up the bill for discussion on the House floor, he would "work very hard" to get the legislation through the House.

The bill, if passed, would provide improved status to over 2,875 long-term CW workers and 56 foreign investors in the CNMI.

Yesterday's development on H.R. 560 was seen by many long-term workers in the CNMI as a spark of hope that, if it becomes law, would ease their fears of being away from their families and their livelihoods.

Many believe that an improved status that would allow them to stay and work in the CNMI would be "the best way for us longterm workers." Most consider the CNMI their second home.

"We don't have to worry for our jobs every year. At least with permanent resident status, we can work with peace of mind and provide for our families," Saturnina told *Saipan Tribune*.

*(Editor's Note: Many of the foreign workers who agreed*



## KCHC gets \$300K for a dental clinic

By **MARC A. VENUS**  
marc\_venus@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. Human Resources and Services Administration recently gave the Kagman Community Health Center \$300,000 to build a dental clinic.

KCHC has one year to complete the infrastructure project.

This follows the award of another \$650,000 grant for KCHC, also from the U.S. Department of Health Services, through the Health Resources and Services Administration, that will be used to open a health center on Tinian.

The award of a grant to open a dental clinic at KCHC arose out of the results of a survey that KCHC did in 2016, to assess the health needs of the community.

The random survey of 300 Kagman community households showed that 62.2% of respondents did not have a dental cleaning in the past 12 months.

Of the remaining 38% of respondents who did have dental cleaning or dental x-ray procedures done in the past 12 months, only 19% received dental services from the Commonwealth Health Center's dental clinic. The remaining received half obtained their dental care from private clinics.

As a result of this survey, the KCHC board decided to apply for the oral health infrastructure grant when the funding opportunity became available.

The KCHC board praised KCHC chief executive officer Vince Castro and the KCHC staff for their work in putting together the grant proposal.

"We know that good health comes in part from what we eat and put in our bodies and our mouth is where health begins. ... This is why we're very happy about getting the oral health infrastructure grant," Castro said.

KCHC is a federally qualified health center that serves all patients regardless of inability to pay. Everyone is welcome, even those that live outside Kagman.

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# Mental health campaign goes to schools

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

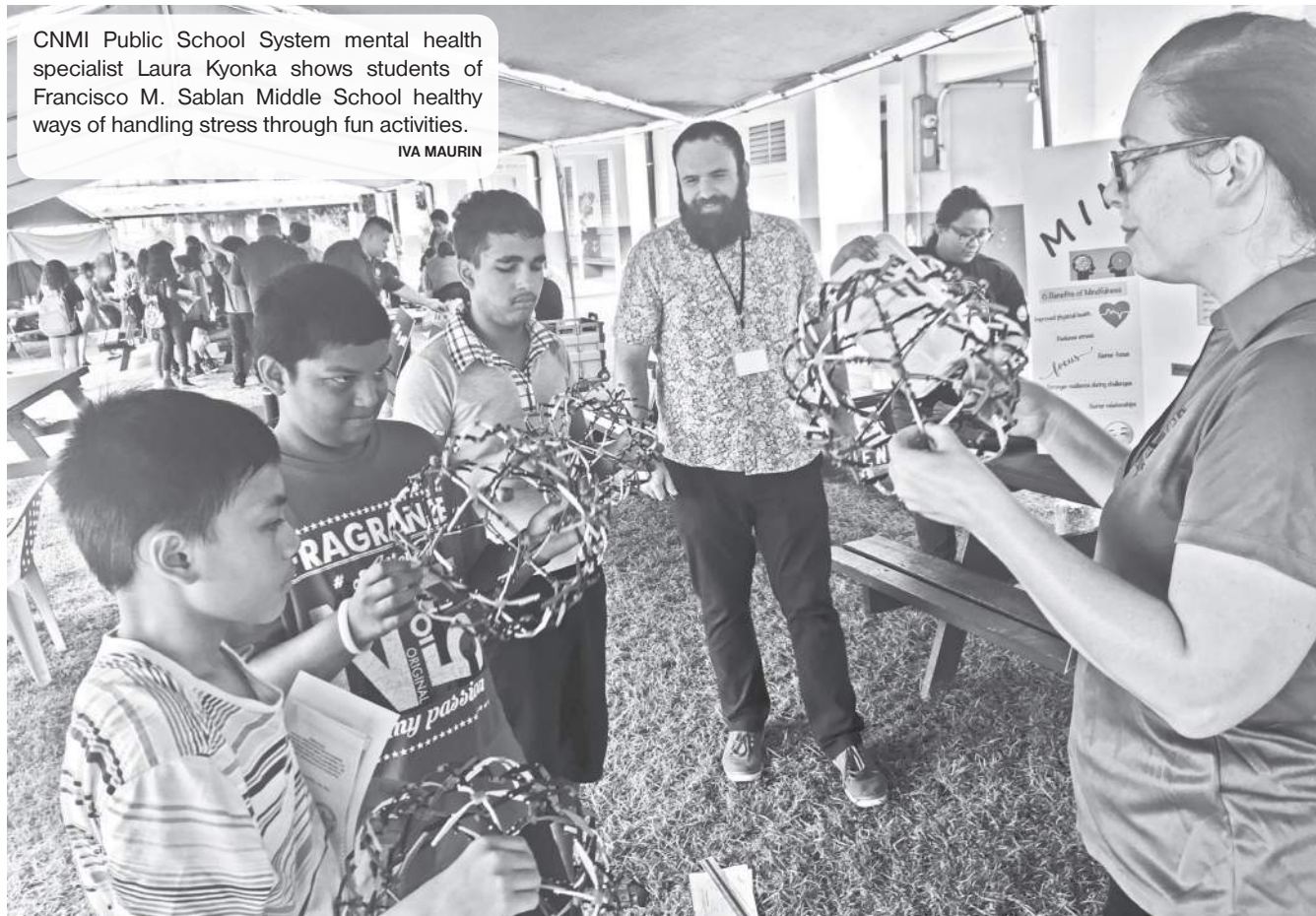
A campaign to promote mental health and combat teen suicide is going to the island's

middle and high schools this September via a series of mental health fairs that kicked off

last Wednesday at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School. Organized by the Garrett

CNMI Public School System mental health specialist Laura Kyonka shows students of Francisco M. Sablan Middle School healthy ways of handling stress through fun activities.

IVA MAURIN



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Opening: Everyday Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm  
Last Order: 1:30pm  
Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm | Last Order: 8:30pm



Dinner Buffet: 5:30pm-9pm  
Menu: "All you can eat & drink"  
Beers, red & white wine, champagne,  
soft drinks, oolong tea and juices.  
Reg. \$43 / Child \$21 (Local \$32 / Child \$16)



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Dance Show  
8:30pm - 10:30pm

For reservation or inquiry, please call: 670-237-2527 or E-mail: food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com

Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Program, the mental health fairs promote suicide prevention by advancing mental health and by giving CNMI youth a chance to interact with each other and have fun through collaborative activities, while learning healthy coping skills such as mindfulness.

At Wednesday's fair, the school's students played, interacted, and built relationships with others through games and activities. They were also given a chance to sign a pledge to support each other against bullying and harassment.

Laura Kyonka, a mental health specialist with the Public School System, said that stress is impacting people at a younger age, and that there is a higher prevalence of at-risk behaviors and unhealthy coping skills.

"What we wanted to give them today is an opportunity to build up healthy ways of handling stress and knowing that they're not alone in facing those challenges," Kyonka said. "With the rising rates of youth suicide, and rising rates of youth mental illness, we are trying to just provide a support network so that each of these kids know that these people support them and love them."

Through the mental health fair, the students are exposed to information, communities, people, and skills that are important for their "protective factors."

The mental health fairs are also targeted at parents and the school as a whole, as well as to fight the stigma attached to the word "mental."

"People should not be afraid when they hear the word mental as it does not necessarily have to be with a mental illness diagnosis," said project director Ana Ada, adding that certain events, such as the recent Super Typhoon Yutu, could give anyone traumatic experiences and short-term mental challenges.

The idea of bringing together the community as support system, through mental health fairs, could help people who are not strong enough emotionally and mentally to overcome those challenges.

The mental health fair will be at the Saipan Southern High School today, from 12:30pm to 3:30pm (will include students from Hopwood Middle School).

To seek help, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-8255, and is available 24 hours. To help and for more information on suicide prevention, contact the GLS Youth Suicide Prevention Program at 664-5483/5433 or via email at cnmiglsysp@gmail.com.



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# \$5M grant to protect reefs, combat invasive species

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior, through the Office of Insular Affairs, has awarded a \$5 million grant that will be used to protect coral reefs and natural resources, and combat invasive species in the U.S. territories and countries under the Compact of Free Association.

The grant money—totaling \$5,192,241—will fund a variety of projects intended to benefit American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands,

and the Republic of Palau.

In the CNMI, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources will get \$239,898 to conserve and protect two endangered endemic trees, the *Serianthes nelsonii* and the *Osmoxylon mariannense*, and also to protect the endangered endemic herb, *Nesogenes rotensis*.

The most prominent threats to these plant species are invasive deer and mealybugs. The project proposes to (1) propagate and out-plant the three endangered plants, (2) mitigate pests, (3) provide fencing for protection of new plantings,

and (4) control invasive deer.

Separately, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality will get \$124,435 to fund 1) participation and engagement in regional Coral Reef Initiative meetings such as the Coral Reef Task Force, 2) expansion of a coral nursery to accommodate 500-plus coral fragments for eventual out-planting and coral reef restoration, 3) development of a plan to mitigate recent outbreaks of the crown-of-thorns sea-star on Rota and Tinian.

Doug Domenech, the U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary,

Insular and International Affairs, announced the release of the funding last week at the 42nd annual meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force in Palau. Domenech was co-chair of the meeting with Adm. Tim Gallaudet, deputy director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“The funding provided will help to protect important coral and natural resources and combat invasive species that are threatening the stunning, but fragile eco-systems found across the U.S. territories and in the [FAS],” said Domenech.

“This funding is a great example of the Department of the Interior’s continuing efforts to protect our treasured natural resources,” said Interior Secretary David Bernhardt. “These funds will help combat the continuing threat of invasive species, including the insidious spread of the brown tree snake, and address the damage being done to the world’s most diverse and complex ecosystems, coral reefs.”

The fiscal year 2020 grant funding is divided among the following:

Coral Reef Initiative and Natural Resources Grants for fiscal year 2020: \$2,267,262

■ Nova Southeastern University National Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program: \$200,000 provides continuing support for a Coral Fellow in each of the following territories: American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Coral Fellow program has provided needed capacity in the territories for both coral reef conservation and invasive species management.

■ American Samoa Office of the Governor: \$239,923 will fund a program to remove large populations of the African tulip (*Spathodea campanulate*) and the Panama rubber tree (*Castilla elastica*), both widely recognized as destructive invasive tree species in the Pacific islands. Several large populations of these aggressive tree species were recently discovered in the western and central areas of Tutuila adjacent to the National Park, home to the only paleotropical rainforest in the United States park system.

■ Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans: \$184,535 will be used to produce high-resolution 3D mapping of Guam’s priority coral reef ecosystems at Cocos Lagoon and Achang Reef Preserve; and provide coral reef management support and participation in the annual Coral Reef Task Force meetings.

■ University of Guam: \$328,671 for a Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle interdiction program that will destroy CRB breeding sites and establish traps to monitor CRB populations at the ports in Guam. Funding is intended to slow the decline of coconut and palm trees on Guam and reduce the risk and threat of the CRB spreading throughout the Marianas.

■ USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources: \$216,787 to fund strike teams who conduct systematic surveys to search for and neutralize recently discovered outbreaks of the Stoney Coral Tissue Loss Disease, which has already impacted almost half of the coral species found in the USVI.

■ USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources: \$74,468 to help address growing concern in the territory about rapidly growing feral populations of the Caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*) on St. Thomas and of red-tailed boa constrictors (*boa constrictor*) on St. Croix, as well as other pet-trade species such as jaguars, pumas, monitors, pythons, and other non-native species. Funding helped create billboards and signage for airports and ports of entry for National Invasive Species Awareness Week. Officials are also developing a USVI Exotic Pet Amnesty Week to help encourage the transition of illegal exotic pets into permitted pets that may be tracked. A nearly-completed invasive species website and data repository will help establish and develop proper channels for reporting and early detection of non-native and invasive species.

■ Micronesian Conservation Trust, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia: \$243,750 to enhance ecosystems and food security in Pohnpei through the prevention, eradication, control, and management of several invasive alien species prevalent in Pohnpei: false Sakau (*Piper auritum*), the chain of love (*Antigonon leptopus*), the scarlet ivy Gourd (*Coccinia grandis*), the octopus tree (*Schefflera actinophylla*), the Bengal trumpet vine (*Thunbergia grandiflora*), and the Honolulu rose (*Clerodendrum chinense*). The proposed funding will help achieve prioritized actions identified by the Invasive Species Taskforce of the Pohnpei Strategic Action Plan (2018-2022) and the FSM and States Biodiversity and Strategic Action Plans (2019-2023).

■ Coral Reef Research Foundation, Palau: \$170,039 to complete a detailed bathymetric mapping of up to 300 meters depth of the outer reef slope of the main Palau Island group and areas within the lagoon. The mapping project will be used as an education and technology project across a broad spectrum of the Palau community.

■ Island Conservation, Palau: \$244,756 to implement a showcase eco-system rehabilitation and restoration project in the UNESCO-designated Rock Island Southern Lagoon of Palau. While the area boasts incredible marine and terrestrial biodiversity, invasive rats, feral cats, smothering vines, snails, and other agricultural pests have disrupted and eroded these once-pristine eco-systems contributing to biodiversity decline. The project will focus on removing invasive rats from the Ngemelis Island complex and promote the re-

See \$5M on Next Page

## CLICK-IT OR TICKET

# Child Passenger Safety Week

September 15-21, 2019: Child Passenger Safety Week  
September 21, 2019: National Seat Check Saturday



# Secure their future.

## Always seat them in correct car seat.

### Car Seat Recommendations for Children

- Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, and choose a seat that fits in your vehicle and use it every time.
- Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions; read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system; and check height and weight limits.
- To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
- Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.



#### REAR-FACING CAR SEAT

Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.

#### FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.

#### BOOSTER SEAT

Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

#### SEATBELT

Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.

DESCRIPTION [RESTRAINT TYPE]	
 <p>A REAR-FACING CAR SEAT is the best seat for your young child to use. It has a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.</p>	 <p>A FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.</p>
 <p>A BOOSTER SEAT positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.</p>	 <p>A SEAT BELT should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.</p>





**CNMI Department of Public Safety.**

For more information call:

**SAIPAN 664-9131/9084 | TINIAN 433-9222/2041 | ROTA 532-9433/9530**

**www.dps.gov.mp**

*The Department of Public Safety is an equal opportunity provider and employer*



# Anti-drug campaign ratchets up

Communities nationwide come together every Oct. 23 to 31 each year to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse by wearing a red ribbon.

In the CNMI, many activities related to the observance of National Red Ribbon Week have been scheduled throughout October to celebrate the Red Ribbon Campaign.

The CNMI's Red Ribbon Campaign Committee includes local and federal agencies, and private and non-profit organizations that have partnered to increase awareness of the National Red Ribbon Campaign's significance and promote a drug-free NMI.

This year's theme is "Send a Message. Stay Drug Free."

The campaign provides communities with a forum to bring together parents, schools and businesses to find new and innovative ways to keep kids drug free.

Red Ribbon Week will kick

off with a proclamation signing by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres at Dandan Middle School on Oct. 7, 2019, at 10am. This year, the islandwide gate/wall decorating contest is open to again to all schools on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. In addition, committee members are conducting drug awareness presentations at various schools.

The following activities have been slated for Red Ribbon Week 2019:

■ Monday, Oct. 7, 2019, Proclamation signing;

■ Friday, Oct. 25, 2019, Wear Red Day and Red Ribbon Wave at Garapan Fishing Base, from 4pm to 5pm;

■ Friday, Oct. 25, 2019, winner of the gate/wall decorating contest will be announced;

■ Oct. 1-Oct. 31, 2019, outreaches to public and private schools on Rota, Tinian and Saipan;

The first Red Ribbon Celebration was organized in 1986 by a grassroots organization of parents concerned about the destruction caused by alcohol and drug abuse. The red ribbon was adopted as a symbol of the movement in honor of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, an agent with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration who was kidnapped and killed while investigating drug traffickers. The campaign has reached millions of children and has been recognized by the U.S. Congress.

Research shows that children are less likely to use alcohol and other drugs when parents and other role models are clear and consistent in their opposition to substance use and abuse.

For more information about Red Ribbon Week, contact Amanda Hayes at (670) 237-1230 or [amanda\\_hayes@nmid.uscourts.gov](mailto:amanda_hayes@nmid.uscourts.gov). (PR)

## \$5M

From Page 8

covery of seabird populations.

Brown Tree Snake Grant Funding for fiscal year 2020: \$2,924,979

■ OIA also provided \$2,924,979 to combat the invasive brown tree snake in Guam. The fiscal year 2020 funding supports an ongoing interagency

collaboration with partners from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services and National Wildlife Research Center, the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Services, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources.

The Coral Reef Initiative and

Natural Resources program supports efforts to protect the health of all natural resources in the U.S. insular areas for the long-term economic and social benefit to their island populations. For more information on funding assistance available through the Office of Insular Affairs, visit the OIA website at <https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance>. (PR)

# SUICIDE PROTECTIVE FACTORS

THE FOLLOWING FACTS HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO REDUCE THE RISK OF SUICIDE

## FEELING CONNECTED TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY, SOCIAL NETWORKS



The person may be less depressed as a result of these connections, and they may also feel a responsibility to them, or a desire not to let them down or hurt them.

## SPIRITUALITY AND SENSE OF PURPOSE



These can provide the person with a reason for continuing their life, as well as a sense of being connected.

## CARING FOR CHILDREN



The responsibility of caring for children may protect the person from suicide because they do not want to leave their children without a caregiver.

## BELIEF THAT SUICIDE IS WRONG



While this belief can cause some anxiety for the person considering suicide, it may also make it less likely that they will follow through with any suicidal thoughts.

## SIGNIFICANT OTHER



Having someone special can help a person feel less lonely and isolated, and therefore reduce suicidal thoughts. Also, the person may not want to hurt their significant other by their suicide.

## RESILIENCE AND PROBLEM SOLVING



The ability to bounce back from difficult situations and to problem solve challenges that life brings can reduce the risk of suicide, as the person is able to find other solutions.

## NO ACCESS TO MEANS



If the person cannot access the items they need to suicide in the way they choose, then suicide is less likely to occur. For example, if the person thinks that using a gun would be best, but they cannot access a gun, then suicide is less likely.

## PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH



Good physical and mental health reduces the risk of suicide because the person is less likely to have a reason to want to end their life.

## EARLY IDENTIFICATIONS & TREATMENT FOR MENTAL ILLNESS



Generally speaking, the earlier mental illness is treated, the better the outcome, which makes suicide less likely.

The Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Program focuses on assisting youth and young adults (ages 10-24) who may have attempted suicide or have had or are having suicidal ideation. Counseling and Prevention Services are available. For more information, call 664-5483.



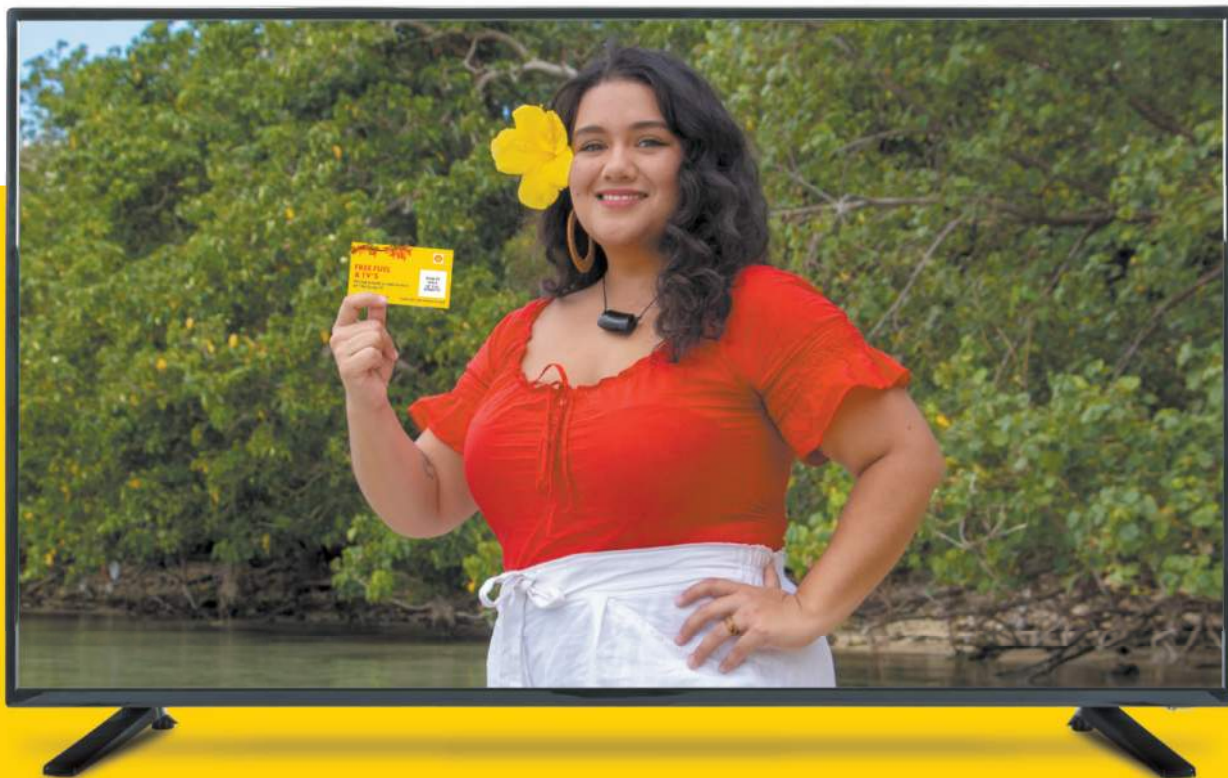
This project was supported by Grant 5U79SM062447-04 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSA) and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of SAMHSA.

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## DCRM to present results of wetlands study

The Division of Coastal Resources Management of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and its consultant, the Wolfs Company, will be making two separate presentations on the results of the recent study they did on the economic value of wetlands in the CNMI.

The presentations on the project results will be held on Sept. 25 and are developed for different target audiences.

The first presentation will be for agency representatives and will take place at the BECQ main conference room from 9am to 11:30am.

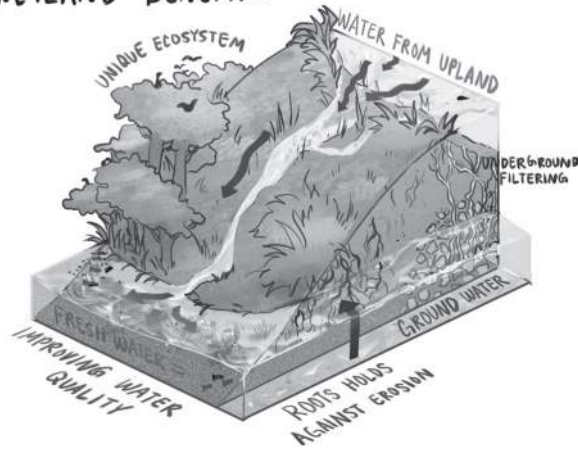
The second presentation will be for the public and will take place at the American Memorial Park Visitor's Center from 5:30pm to 7pm.

The consultant team was on island in April this year to gather data from various resource agencies and local

experts about the CNMI's wetlands. The results of the study would be used to inform future management decisions on potential projects concerning wetland conversion, restoration, and mitigation of such critical ecosystems.

Wetlands in CNMI serve various ecological functions such as groundwater recharge, water pollutant filtration, stormwater retention, and as buffers against flooding.

### WETLAND BENEFITS



In addition, they also provide habitat for some endangered wildlife and occasionally serve as nurseries for juvenile marine life. Wetlands offer many recreational and educational opportunities for the CNMI. They are regulated and managed by numerous local and federal agencies as wetland systems fall under both state and national jurisdiction. The project results are intended to provide new information regarding the values of CNMI's extensive wetland ecosystems.

If you have any questions related to the project, contact Rich Salas at 664-8318 or by email at rsalas@dcrm.gov.mp. (PR)

## Saturated ground, slow outflow culprits behind Garapan floods

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Public Works attributes the flooding in Garapan to the saturated ground and the slow outflow of rainwater, among other things.

A DPW statement also blames the formation of sandbars from western waves for the knee-deep flood in some areas.

"The ground [in Garapan] is saturated, preventing the water from percolating [filtering] down to the aquifers due to the considerable rainfall,"

the DPW statement said after *Saipan Tribune* sought comment from DPW Secretary James Ada.

The department statement added that western waves are also pushing the sand closer to the shoreline, creating sandbars that block the drainage

outlet systems.

To mitigate this problem, the DPW Road Division works with the DPW grounds crew and Bureau of Coastal and Environmental Quality to clear any debris blocking the drainages.

"[The] DPW crew is working continuously by cleaning the drainage inlets prior and during the rainy season to al-

leviate flooding," the statement noted.

At the same time, even with all these precautions, Garapan is naturally a flood-prone area because it is located within a flood plain area, DPW pointed out.

It was earlier estimated by DPW that it would take about two years to resolve. This includes detail engineer de-

signing, geotechnical testing, environmental assessments, surveys, and right of way. And that is assuming that funding is readily available.

The department told *Saipan Tribune* in a previous statement that they are currently working the Office on Planning and Development to apply for federal grants.

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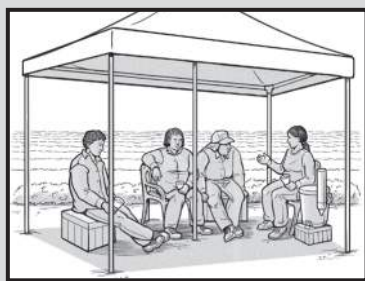


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For more information, please call CNMI-OSHA On-Site Consultation office at

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### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



## INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-19-024

### W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of gravity sewer main, new service laterals, connection to existing laterals, the abandonment of existing sewer manholes, and the elimination of the old W-5 wet well and the W-6 sewer lift station.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 12, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 7, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies** of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-19-024, W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 27, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of **fifteen percent (15%)** of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of **one hundred percent (100%)** of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of **one hundred percent (100%)** of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 16, 2019** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at nicole.villagomez@cucgov.org, and Ms. Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior, via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator





Roil Soil Clothing owner and Vibe Marianas co-organizer Shayne Villanueva, holding microphone, explains details about Vibe Fest Marianas during yesterday's press briefing at the Fiesta Resort and Spa's Chambre Bar. Photo also shows singers Jordan T, Bo Napoleon, 4FOR4, and Leah & Shannon. Vibe Fest Marianas will be held tonight at the Fiesta Resort and Spa's beachside.

MARC A. VENUS

## Vibe Fest tonight

Preparations are all set for tonight's Vibe Fest Marianas at the beachside of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, with performances beginning at 4pm.

It will feature singers Jordan T, Bo Napoleon, Samu, Leah & Shannon, and 4FOR4. In a meet-and-greet with the media yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa's Chambre Bar, the singers said they are all excited, and promised performances that

will leave spectators happy.

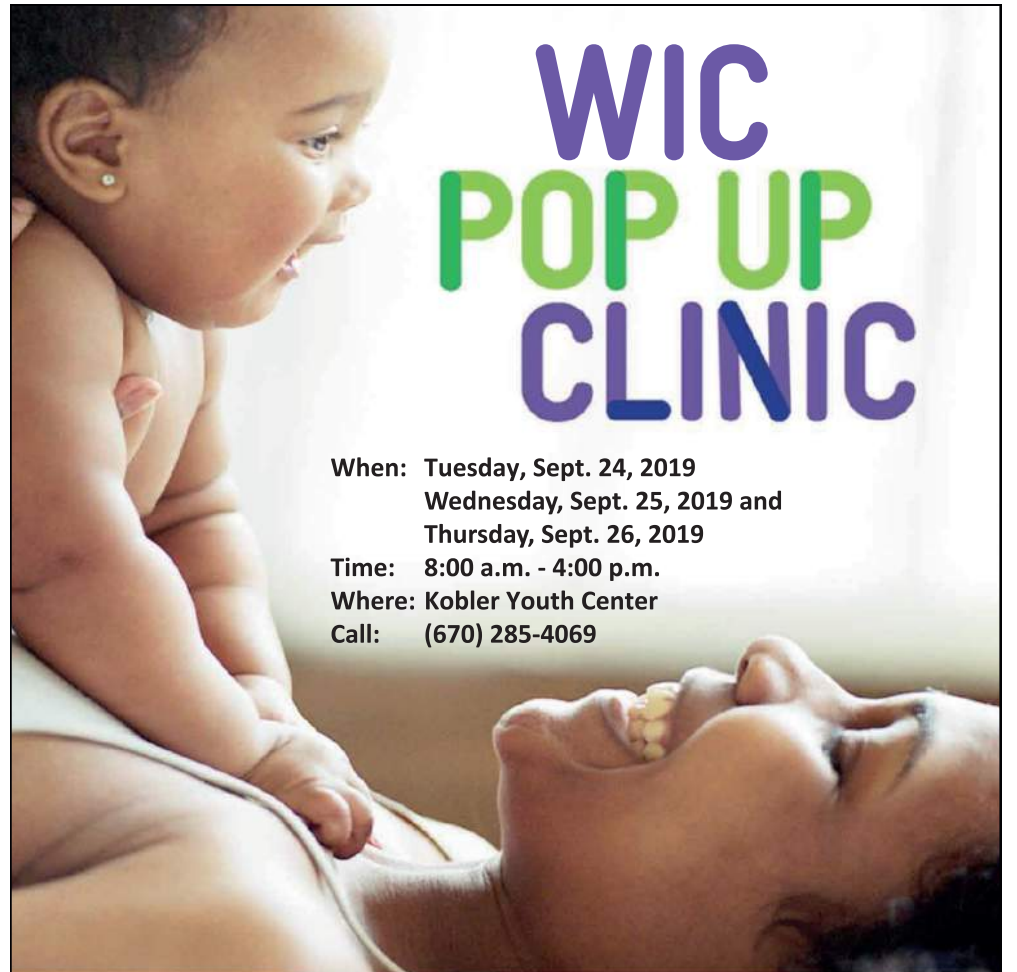
When asked about being in the Marianas for the first time, Bo Napoleon said the island community may be small, but the support and hospitality of the people has been "amazing."

Jordan T feels he is at home.

The company that's putting together the show is AltrxEgo Entertainment. Its CEO, Ben Schiff, said that the group also got to see students at

Kagman High School.

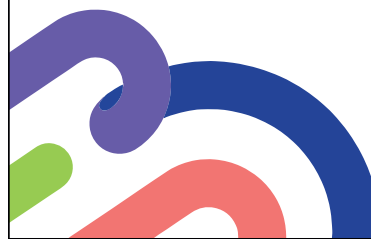
Tickets for pre-sale are still being sold at Boarderline Surf Shop and Tribe Marianas at \$20 for general admission and \$40 for VIP admission. Tickets will also be sold at the door with general admission being \$30 and VIP admission at \$50. Children ages seven and below are free of charge. VIPs will get access to a meet-and-greet with the singers, express entry to the event, a special VIP-only bar and bathroom use. Gates will open at 3pm. (Marc A. Venus)



## WIC POP UP CLINIC

**When:** Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019  
Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 and  
Thursday, Sept. 26, 2019  
**Time:** 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Kobler Youth Center  
**Call:** (670) 285-4069

WIC provides healthy food, nutrition education, and breastfeeding guidance to more than 3,000 moms and children in the CNMI. If you are pregnant, a caregiver, or a mom with children under 5, you can get the right personalized support for you and your family.



\*This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This project was supported by Grant 7NM700NM5 CFDA 10.557 from USDA and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of USDA.

# THE 4TH ANNUAL NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE

Presented by  
Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

OPEN TO ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!


Register online at  
[CongressionalAppChallenge.us](http://CongressionalAppChallenge.us)  
Submissions Due: November 1, 2019

More information can be found at [sablan.house.gov](http://sablan.house.gov) or by calling  
670-323-2647/8 on Saipan, 433-2647 on Tinian, or 532-2647 on Rota.

*Paid for by official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives*








## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### CUC-RFP-19-033

## REQUEST FOR FEE PROPOSAL FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from professional Archaeologist who meets U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan to prepare information, data, and documentation needed to conduct Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) review with aim of completing Section 106 Review and generating archaeological expectations necessary for the proposed CUC waterline and sewerline projects proposed for FY 19. The selected consultant shall provide necessary assessment within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) of the proposed waterline and sewerline installation satisfactory to the CUC, United States Environmental Protection Agency and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

**One (1) original and four (4) hard copies**, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RFP-19-033, Request for Fee Proposal for Archaeological Services” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **September 23, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.


All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 6, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Engineer for Water Division at email address [nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org](mailto:nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org) and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.


**WILLIAM GILMORE**  
Acting, Executive Director

**MANNY BOYER SABLAN**  
Purchasing Administrator



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### CUC-RFP-19-037

## FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019, 2020 & 2021

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) requires the services of a U.S. Certified Public Accounting Firm/Individual with knowledge, skill, and experience in auditing (1) financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards of the U.S. and; (2) federal awards programs in accordance with the Single Audit Act and U.S. Office of Management and Budget requisites

- Provide assistance to the CUC management with the preparation of the annual financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
- Ensure that the financial statements and auditor's reports also meet any specific requirements contained in agreements or other contractual requirements relative to financial statement presentation and the audits.
- Submit the draft financial statements and accompanying auditor's reports to CUC management no later than January 31st of each year, and issue the final reports no later than February 28th of each year.
- Provide 15 bound copies of the final financial statements and accompanying auditor's report
- Provide an electronic copy (e.g., .pdf format) of the final report to the CUC.

The date of contract award will be no later than November 22, 2019. Auditors are responsible to review the 2019, 2020 & 2021 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets for each fiscal year.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

**One (1) original and five (5) hard copies**, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RFP-19-037, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2019, 2020 & 2021” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **October 15, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. A copy of the submission, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 30, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Greg Cruz, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address [greg.cruz@cucgov.org](mailto:greg.cruz@cucgov.org) and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY P. CAMACHO**  
Executive Director

**MANNY BOYER SABLAN**  
Purchasing Administrator

# Harnessing the power of the NMI to fight ocean pollution

By IVA MAURIN  
[iva\\_maurin@saipantribune.com](mailto:iva_maurin@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

## » International Coastal Cleanup tomorrow

A week after doing the first Micronesia Cleanup Day, the CNMI will be going out once more tomorrow, Sept. 21, to pick up trash, this time joining the rest of the world for the International Coastal Cleanup.

With the theme “Harnessing the Power of People to Fight Ocean Pollution,” this year’s ICC highlights the impact that even a small group of people has in cleaning their surroundings.

The ICC is considered the world’s largest single day cleanup event. Last year, the CNMI had 1,532 volunteers who cleaned over 50 locations and collected 9,180 lbs of trash.

Colleen C. Flores of the Division of Coastal Resources Management and coordinator of the 2019 International Coastal Cleanup, said that many participants from last year will be participating again in this year’s edition of the ICC.

As part of ICC activities, picking up trash is just one aspect of the event; people are also collecting data on the kind of trash that they pick up. “As they [volunteers] go,

for example, if they find 10 cigarette butts, they have to tally those cigarette butts,” Flores said.

The DCRM takes the data that the volunteers collect afterwards and input it into the world’s largest ocean trash database, run by Ocean Conservancy. This data helps scientists and researchers come up with ways to mitigate and find solutions to the world’s trash problem.

Incidentally, in terms of quantity, cigarette butts hold first place among the trash collected in the CNMI’s ICC. As for weight, though, DCRM reports that buoys, fishing gears, and large plastics, pallets or containers are the top collected trash.

“Based on our previous cleanups, we’ve noticed that most of the marine debris on the west side of our island—the Saipan lagoon—are land-based sources of pollution. It’s trash that come from the residents on the island,” Flores said. “But on the east side, the

backside of Saipan, most of that trash that we see are all washed up marine debris from elsewhere around the world.”

Kiko Ignacio, a resident of Chalan Kanoa, believes that an island paradise like Saipan should be plastic-free. The ban on single-use plastic is currently being mulled in the CNMI Legislature.

“I don’t want it to be late for this island. With all the things that are happening around the world that concerns the environment, the CNMI should be plastic-free,” Ignacio said. “Small supermarkets should be told to go plastic-free and get rid of those small black plastic bags.”

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres calls on the community to take part in this year’s International Coastal Cleanup. “As much trash as one can collect today, I’m sure that we can go around again and do an even better job collectively the next day. So I encourage everybody to participate tomorrow and in other future cleanups.”

For those interested in joining the International Coastal Cleanup tomorrow, sign up at [dcrm.gov.mp](http://dcrm.gov.mp) or contact Flores at [cflores@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:cflores@dcrm.gov.mp).

## Rotary exec thanks US for tsunami aid

Toyohisa Asada, Rotary International District 2750 Governor, is thankful to the United States’ for helping Japan after a tsunami hit the country in 2011.


“Six years ago, when Japan got hit by the tsunami, three days later, 20,000 soldiers from the United States brought water, food, and cleaned the

airport and the roads,” Asada said in his remarks at the general assembly of the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Hyatt Regency ballroom last Sept. 13, Friday.

Asada was accompanied in this visit by district secretary Yoshichika Iwaki, and assistant district governor Melner Isaac.

Asada also was guest at the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Botanical Garden bus shelter that the Rotary has adopted.

Rotary Club of Saipan president Marcia Ayuyu also exchanged banners with Rotary Club of Guam president Bobbie Leon Guerrero at the Friday meeting. (*Iva Maurin*)



### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) • Website: [www.cpa.gov.mp](http://www.cpa.gov.mp)

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, hereby gives notice that CPA is applying for a USDA Loan for funding of the proposed Rehabilitation of Runway 7/25 at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the proposed airport improvement and accept any written comments.

A public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, September 24, 2019** from **6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** at the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located at the Saipan Airport Fire Station.

Persons wishing to provide comments but who are unable to attend the public hearing may drop their comments to the CPA Administration Office, attention to CPA's Executive Director, Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio, second floor arrival building, mail them to P.O. Box 501055, Saipan MP 96950, fax to (670) 234-5962 or email them to [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) by no later than **September 30, 2019**.

/s/ **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
Executive Director

Date: September 12, 2019

### IN THE SUPERIOR OF THE COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**ANTONIO NAVIA  
SACAYAN**  
Petitioner,  
vs.  
**Tessie  
Macasling Garay  
Respondent,**

**FCD-DI CIVIL  
ACTION  
NO. 19-0318**  
  
**SUMMONS FOR  
PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 445 BOX 10001 CHINATOWN SAIPAN, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 24th day of July, 2019.  
/s/ Clerk of Court



**COMMUNITY BRIEFS****Power outage today on Navy Hill**

There will be a scheduled power interruption today, Sept. 20, from 3pm to 6pm, affecting Navy Hill.

This sectionalized outage on Feeder 1 will affect Navy Hill (Delgado Dr., WIC Clinic, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Kotdura Ln., Fitme Pl., Manehante Av., Sanitation Office Victoria Av., Mavoria Av., Isla Dr., Brilliant Star Montessori School, Fuetsa Lp., Documento Ln., Gurupu Dr., Dinana Ln., Rekto Dr., and Suheta.

No water well or wastewater service area will be affected.

This will allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. linemen to replace a rotted primary power pole and re-sag low primary lines on Navy Hill. (PR)

**Inspections for pest breeding sites**

The Bureau of Environmental Health, together with the Saipan Mayor's Office, Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality, Department of Public Lands, and Zoning Office, is going into the villages on Saipan to inspect and remove debris that could become breeding sites for pests like mosquitoes and rodents, as well as animals that carry disease.

The inspections will begin in Koblerville, San Antonio, Afetna, and Chalan Kanoa, before moving north. The public is advised to leash their dogs for the safety of the inspectors.

Residents may contact the mayor's office at (670) 234-620 for assistance in the removal of debris. For further information, contact the BEH at 670-664-4870/2/3 or email john.

tagabuel@dph.gov.mp. (PR)

**Pro-life walk/roll on Sept. 27, 2019**

Grace Christian Ministries Navy Hill is inviting the public to join them for a candlelight prayer walk/roll on Friday, Sept. 27, at 5:30pm, at the Minachom Atdao. Its purpose is to pray over the many needs of the island related to the issue of abortion. After the worship songs and prayer there will be a walk/roll to Quartermaster Road then back to Minachon Atdao. (PR)

**Guam Soil and Water Conservation District board meeting set**

The Northern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District Board will meet on Sept. 23, 2019, at 2pm at the Adelup Governor's conference room in Anigua for the election of board officers. All government and NGO partners and farmers are invited to attend. (PR)

**MHS Class of '81 reunion meeting set**

This is to inform all Marianas High School 1981 graduates that the reunion meeting originally set for Thursday, Sept. 26, has been postponed and rescheduled to Friday, Sept. 27, 2019, starting at 6pm at the TechNic Gaming Center above Sherwin Williams and across Bank of Hawaii on Middle Road. (PR)

**Zoning closed today**

The Saipan Zoning Office will be closed today, Sept. 20, 2019, from 7:30am to 4:30pm for a professional development and training workshop for its staff. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, Sept. 23, 2019, at 7:30am. (PR)

**Tickets now on sale for Club 200**

The American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter will be hosting the Club 200 fundraiser on the evening of Oct. 12, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. The theme this year is Latin Nights. Door prizes will be up grabs. The grand prize is a 2019 Toyota RAV4. For the first time, pinatas will give partygoers a chance to capture other prizes. Tickets are on sale now for \$100 each, \$150 for VIP reserved seats and extracaliente swag. Tickets are available at Joeten Stores, Red Cross board members or at the Chapter office near the airport.

For additional information, call 234-3459. (PR)

**Call for nominations**

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is accepting nominations for the 2018 Governor's Humanities Awards to recognize outstanding contributions to the humanities by individuals and organizations in the community.

Nominees should have a notable humanities achievement in the past year, as demonstrated in any of the following four categories:

- Research and Publication in the Humanities;
- Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices;

■ Preservation of CNMI History; and

■ Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in both classroom and non-classroom settings).

A fifth category, Lifetime Achievement, recognizes significant contributions to the humanities over multiple decades. This award may be given posthumously.

Nomination forms and instructions are available at the council's office in the Springs Plaza Building, Gualo Rai, or on the council website at www.nmhcouncil.org. Nominations may be made by any member of the public and are due no later than 4pm on Oct. 11, 2019.

Awards will be presented in

a special ceremony in October as a part of CNMI Humanities Month (time, date and venue to be announced).

For more information, contact council staff at 235-4785. (PR)

**Military trainings set**

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

- From 3pm-6pm, Sept. 20
- From 10am to 4pm, Sept. 21

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. (PR)

**American Red Cross**

**Club 200**

**Latin Nights**

**GRAND PRIZE**  
2019 TOYOTA RAV4 LE

**Alkins Kroll** **RAV4**

**OCTOBER 12TH, 2019**  
**SATURDAY, 6 PM - 10 PM**  
**FIESTA RESORT & SPA**

**\$100 PER PERSON,**  
**\$150 FOR VIP SEATING**

**MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED:**  
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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality  
Division of Coastal Resources Management  
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315  
www.dcrm.gov.mp



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**ASIA PACIFIC HOTEL**  
**PERMIT APPLICATION NO. SMS-2019-X-045**

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed construction and operation of the Asia Pacific Hotel project in Garapan, Saipan.

The First Pacific Investment Group, Inc. is proposing to renovate, expand, and convert two adjoining 2-story commercial building into a 3-story hotel. The hotel will be located along Royal Palm Avenue and Coffee Tree Mall in Garapan, on Lot Nos. 002 D 08, 002 D 09, and 002 D 10. The hotel will consist of 88 rooms with a lobby at the main entrance, 11 commercial units, generator room, 30 parking stalls with 2 ADA parking spaces and an additional 48 parking stalls with 2 ADA parking spaces which will be situated at a nearby location along Date Street and Coconut Street in Garapan, on Lot Nos. 002 D 21 and 002 D 22.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 08, 2019, 5PM, at the BECQ 2nd Main Conference Room, 2nd Floor**, on Middle Road in Lower Gualo Rai.

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Asia Pacific Hotel project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro  
Director  
Division of Coastal Resources Management



# Opinion

Hafa Adair

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 187

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Prevent a Saudi Arabia-Iran war

For 16 months, President Donald Trump has pursued a policy toward Iran known as “maximum pressure,” beginning with the United States’ withdrawal from the nuclear accord secured by President Barack Obama under which Iran stopped advancing its nuclear weapons program.

This maximum pressure was not enough to bring Iran into line. Now, having ratcheted up the pressure so high, Trump’s options to deal with a new and drastic escalation this past weekend are badly limited. Military retaliation is one option, but the destabilization that follows could be devastating. Another path must be found.

The nuclear deal was imperfect, allowing Iran to continue funding terrorism and conduct proxy wars in Syria and Yemen. But the 2015 agreement, which included China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and Germany as signatories, provided a foundation from which Iran might have been persuaded to pursue better behavior in return for fewer economic sanctions.

Then Trump walked away from the deal in 2018. Since then, Iran has seen its economy dwindle into recession as oil exports were stymied. In response, Iran blew holes in four ships—including two Saudi oil tankers—anchored in the Persian Gulf in May, attacked two British oil tankers in the Straits of Hormuz in June, increased its uranium enrichment and shot down a drone operated by the United States.

This weekend, the Trump administration accused Iran of bombing crucial Saudi Arabian oil infrastructure. On Monday, this led to a cut in the world’s oil supply by 5% and a 13% spike in the price of oil, and Iran seized another tanker. If the attack came from Iran’s soil, it’s an extraordinary provocation.

Saudi Arabia says it will ask for a full UN investigation before it responds. Trump said of a possible war, “We’d certainly like to avoid it,” and that’s better than his vague weekend tweet that the United States is “locked and loaded.” Only a week ago, Trump was talking about meeting with Iran’s president and considering a \$15 billion line of credit to lure Iran into better behavior.

The atmosphere surrounding this weekend’s attacks is distressingly unstable. Voters in Israel will decide Tuesday whether Benjamin Netanyahu, Trump’s staunchest ally against the 2015 Iran deal, will continue to lead. In Iran, it’s not clear how the bombing of Saudi Arabia affects the machinations between hard-line clerics who want to spit in the eye of Americans and Saudis, and moderates who prioritize peace and prosperity.

In the United States, we have no national security adviser, no director of national intelligence, a defense secretary who has been on the job for six weeks, and a fickle, mercurial president. And our ally, Saudi Arabia, is as dedicated to funding terrorism, stoking proxy wars and ignoring human rights as Iran.

Trump played the tough guy, and Iran called him on it. Now he must try to bring Iran back into line by promising progress, because punishment has failed. There is no justification for the United States attacking Iran, and the consequences for the world if Saudi Arabia does so could be devastating.

(c)2019 Newsday

MIKE SMITH  
LA VEGAS SUN 7/01/19

DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/ASA S



WHAT?! WE  
MAY GO TO WAR  
WITHOUT ME?!



## You two

Democrat Corey Booker, a presidential candidate with a left leg some foot and a half shorter than his right, has gone over the edge and now wants a law passed to allow the federal government to license U.S. citizens to buy, sell or possess firearms. A license is an item purchased from a government granting the bearer the privilege of some act or another. The 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution—the one that guarantees the others like free speech and assembly—requires that the government shall pass no law infringing the right of its citizenry to possess and bear firearms. Corey seems to have flunked his high school civics class. The only license a U.S. citizen needs to keep and bear arms, he already has. It is a constitutionally mandated right, not a privilege to be bought.

S.2449, the Federal Firearm Licensing Act that Booker proposes, has to go down as near to a treasonous action as can be imagined. It calls for the armed imposition of an act so unconstitutional that it expects the overthrow of the current form of government in order to enact it. Armed insurrection with intent to overthrow the government is treason.

Now we have another wingnut, in the form of Beto O’Somethingorother, who advertises he will forcibly confiscate the citizenry’s firearms if elected. That should bring his poll ratings to something approaching invisibility in his home state of Texas. Once again, it would be a treasonous act unless the 2nd Amendment were to be repealed or amended by the constitutionally stipulated method, which is not bloody likely.

As Alice’s Red Queen would say, “Off with their heads.”

### I’ve got gas pain

The class action lawsuit to bring Shell and Mobil to task over the alleged antitrust price fixing violations they have engaged in is still staggering along. With dead lawyers and disbarred lawyers and missing lawyers and umpteen changes of lawyers and a decade of delays so far, it’s beginning to sound like a Clinonista adventure in whitewater rafting.

On its face this is an open-and-closed issue. For decades, both of these fuel company “competitors” have charged exactly the same amount for a gallon of fuel to within 1/10th of 1 cent no matter who owned the pumping station, no matter when the fuel was purchased or for how much, no matter that the overhead of different locations would differ from other locations. The price is unlawfully fixed between these two companies and flies in the face of U.S. antitrust laws and of fair business practice here in the CNMI.

Why doesn’t the U.S. Attorney for the Department of Justice call them out on this issue? Well, the CNMI provides no taxes to the United States. Worse, it provides no votes to the ruling party

### SOUR GRAPES By BRUCE BATEMAN Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman resides on Saipan with a wife, a son, and an unknown number of boonie dogs. He has owned and operated a number of unusual businesses and most recently worked as the marketing manager for MVA. Bruce likes to read, travel, tinker with bicycles, hike, swim, and play a bit of golf. He is opinionated and writes when the moon is full and the mood strikes.



or its opponent, so the nice way to say it is we don’t have any juice. The amount of fuel in question here is tiny compared to the vast quantities sold in the U.S. mainland where voters and taxpayers abound. So the amount of money involved is also tiny—to everyone except the poor suckers here in the CNMI that have to pay it out of their ever shrinking wallets. Well, not everyone’s wallet is shrinking. Jim and Ricky aren’t doing too badly. The rest of us are paying way over the average gas price plus the extra cost of shipping it here from Singapore. Way over. It’s good to be the monopoly, or in this case the price-fixing duopoly.

Even when they change prices, it is with a handshake under the table and a wink-wink-nod-nod “You go first this time, I’ll go next” agreement and, within hours, both companies are back to charging the same exact price for their needed commodity, fuel.

The chances of this class action suit producing any results is not losing Jimmy or Ricky any sleepless nights. So just keep shoveling that extra buck or two per gallon you pay out to get Shell and Mobil’s gas out of their tanks into yours. Pucker up and take it like a man. It is unlikely to change anytime soon.

Maybe we could show that at least we notice we are being gouged by not buying any gas at all on Tuesdays. Just don’t go there at all on Tuesdays. They might notice that we, their customers, notice. I’ll start. No gas buying for me on Tuesdays. Ice cream maybe, but no gas. Feel free to join in. “Nada Gas Tuesdays.” Nice ring.

\*Hey Tinian watermelon sellers, you should take a page out of Shell’s playbook and start charging \$12 a pound for your melons. If all of you did it, who could stop you? ... Maybe us watermelon eaters if we didn’t buy them on Tuesdays.

### Tides out

The Outer Cove Marina is a beehive of activity every day and

See YOU TWO on Next Page



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Policy issues

It is said that policy determines the quality of life of a community. It is a “theory behind a law or action that is beneficial to society that becomes a basis or reason for laws and rulings by a court.”

The latter aspect is a bit more complex, though the intent remains the same—improvement of the wellbeing of villagers—to the level of prosperity.

Be that as it may, it seems we’ve done a decent job addressing such policy as housing and other collateral issues. It involves a process that requires organized implementation. A little focus and we should expand other services beyond normalcy or conventional wisdom.

### Obligation

It remains our duty to resolve issues collectively. The task turns even more critical when disposing of scarce resources.

Indeed, the promise of better tomorrows is as perennial as the grass made by politicians that seem to neglect them with equal agility. I call it the recycling factory where the same garbage is brought for regurgitation during election year. After more than 40 years I’ve memorized promises like the back of my hand.

Politics is as sure as a three-dollar bill. We’ve dealt with it and know the nature of the beast. Unfortunately, we ignore lessons in perpetuity as though second nature to our demise. Must begin paying attention to our rights and aspirations as citizens. Let’s hold public officials accountable for their actions.

Damning our wobbly behavior replaying exhausting policy redundancy as though new material found aplenty at the landfill.

### National

I have been treading varying views among national policymakers in matters of interest. Appreciate the depth of their informed

## Yes, gun ownership is a God-given right

The fastest way to trend on Twitter, and not in a good way, is to say that the right to bear arms is a God-given right.

Texas state Rep. Matt Schaefer established this beyond a doubt in a Twitter thread in the aftermath of the West Texas shooting spree. He said that he wouldn’t use “the evil acts of a handful of people to diminish the God-given rights of my fellow Texans.”

Progressives were aghast, and when actress Alyssa Milano objected, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz jumped in to support Schaefer’s argument (in less bombastic terms).

The basic proposition isn’t hard to defend, and indeed it is written into our fundamental documents. This doesn’t mean that God wants you to own an AR-15, or that every jot and tittle of our current gun regime is divinely mandated. Far from it. Yet there is a natural right to self-defense, and gun ownership is inherently connected to that right in a modern society.

This is glossed over even by Democrats who have a connection to America’s culture of gun ownership. Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar said the other week, “I look at [gun legislation] and I always say, ‘Does this hurt Uncle Dick in his deer stand?’” That’s not the question, though. The Second Amendment isn’t

views that have gone beyond conventional wisdom.

It could be done here too if policymakers retreat to reassess issues that merit turning into policy. The exercise should be limited to substantive issues so we avoid turning the legislature into the first manufacturing entity in the NMI of half-baked policies.

### Success

Trump’s meteoric success with the national economy leaves Democrats at a loss for table issues, thus the apparent disorientation.

The economy has soared, giving people jobs and more money for their families. In more ways than one, most folks have benefited from Trump’s healthy economic plans that are unstoppable at this point.

Trump’s success became a political thorny issue for Democrats who can’t figure out table issues in order to find some form of participation in the improvement of the quality of life for families. Well, it happens when the train leaves the station without Da Boysis. It would be a long hitch home.

Be that as it may, admirable Trump’s success with the economy where workers head home with more money in their paychecks for family needs. In the process, national Democrats can’t figure out table issues that would bring them into relevancy with fellow citizens.

Trump’s also determined to resolve the homelessness epidemic in the golden state turned “poop” state. Imagine the stench of poop all over California. What’s the cause of homelessness when the economy has soared? How did this positive phenomenon skip those now languishing in impoverished land? It’s all a matter of leadership where high tidal shift lifts all boats!

### Money

The fluctuation of revenue is a given that is contingent on several

fundamentally about Uncle Dick bagging deer, but about his ability to defend himself and his family.

The notion of God-given rights shouldn’t be controversial. It is a bedrock of the American creed, written into the Declaration of Independence. Its preamble says, of course, that all men “are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.”

The Bill of Rights numbers “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms” among those unalienable rights. Why? Because the founders believed that everyone has an inherent right to self-defense.

As David Harsanyi notes in his history of the gun in America, “First Freedom,” John Adams said in his defense of one of the British soldiers charged in the Boston Massacre in 1770 that self-defense was “the primary canon in the law of nature.”

Owning a gun is an extension of this law of nature and has been recognized as such for a long time in Anglo-America. The right to bear arms had deep roots in England, and predated the Constitution on these shores.

There was no doubt at the time about the importance of the right to bear arms. Harsanyi writes that “not a single soul in the provisional government or at the Second Continental Congress or any delegate at the Constitutional Convention—or, for that

stop access to the water and the docks without replacing that access with something that works shows poor planning and a lack of understanding of from whence come the tax dollars that provide salaries for the bureaucracy that is causing this big problem.

Trying to use the Smiling Cove simply won’t work. There is too much volume of boating for Smiling Cove to accommodate it. The channel will be clogged and traffic will come to a standstill just when it should be flowing smoothly. It will not even accommodate many of the bigger boats during the low tide. Will you try and pass a regulation to make the tide stay full? Will you perform some magic trick that will enable that tiny boat channel into the Smiling Cove hold five times the amount of traffic it will actually hold?

If I may make a suggestion: Please suck up the minor embarrassment a reversal of this not-so-brilliant decision will cause by

### By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.*



factors. Fortunately, it’s comforting the commitment of money managers to see appropriate disposition of scarce funds. It’s good to save some for that “rainy day.”

Hopefully there would emerge a plan to improve upon our mini-tourism industry. Let’s strengthen gradual commercialization of farming and fishing. It may require a set of plans but there’s nothing stopping us from moving forward with it. Subsistence has outlived its usefulness.

### Conflict

Members of boards and commissions are legally mandated to work and focus on policy issues.

To use your post to advance the salaries of spouses and relatives makes you a voluntary participant in corrupt activities prohibited by law. This isn’t too hard to understand, is it?

If necessary I will publish names in the days ahead to point out the obvious anomaly. Your role was never intended to help family members over fulfilling the public role and function of the board or commission you’re appointed to help. Ever heard of the term integrity?

### By RICH LOWRY

King Features Synd., Inc.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*



matter, any new American—ever argued against the idea of individuals owning a firearm.”

None of this is necessarily a trump card in the gun control debate—the most commonly proposed gun control restrictions wouldn’t substantially lessen gun ownership. It does mean, though, that there is a limit to how far gun control can go in America and that proponents of new restrictions should be fully aware that they are tampering with a constitutionally protected individual right.

If Uncle Dick likes to hunt, good for him. But his right to own a firearm doesn’t begin or end there.

## YOU TWO

From Page 14

into the night. Only really bad weather stops the many water sports, transportation companies, tourism fishing boats and sunset cruise boats from providing much loved service to our tourist visitors longing for a bit of sun and excitement on the water.

That the CNMI government should close it will cause untold hardship for the companies who operate those tourist water services. It will drive some of them completely out of business. It will aggravate those tourists who cannot get those services, have that fun in the sun or eat that splendid meal while floating on our perfect lagoon at sunset. They will go somewhere else.

What are you thinking? Do you think that maybe someday, when you have the money, you will improve the Outer Cove? That should have been done 20 years ago, but wasn’t. To just

leaving the Outer Cove Marina open and doing its job of providing sea/lagoon access to party boats, tour boats, fishing boats, sunset cruise boats, boats taking our precious tourists to Managaha, and all the other pleasure boats and business boats aching to taste the saltwater on their hulls. They won’t all fit into the Smiling Cove. Please do the math before it is too late and you have destroyed these essential businesses, the fun they provide to our visitors and the money they generate.

Thanks for reading Sour Grapes!

*“This is the government your forefathers warned you about.”*  
— Keaton Jorgensen






*“If one does not know to which port one is sailing, no wind is favorable.”*

— Lucius Annaeus Seneca

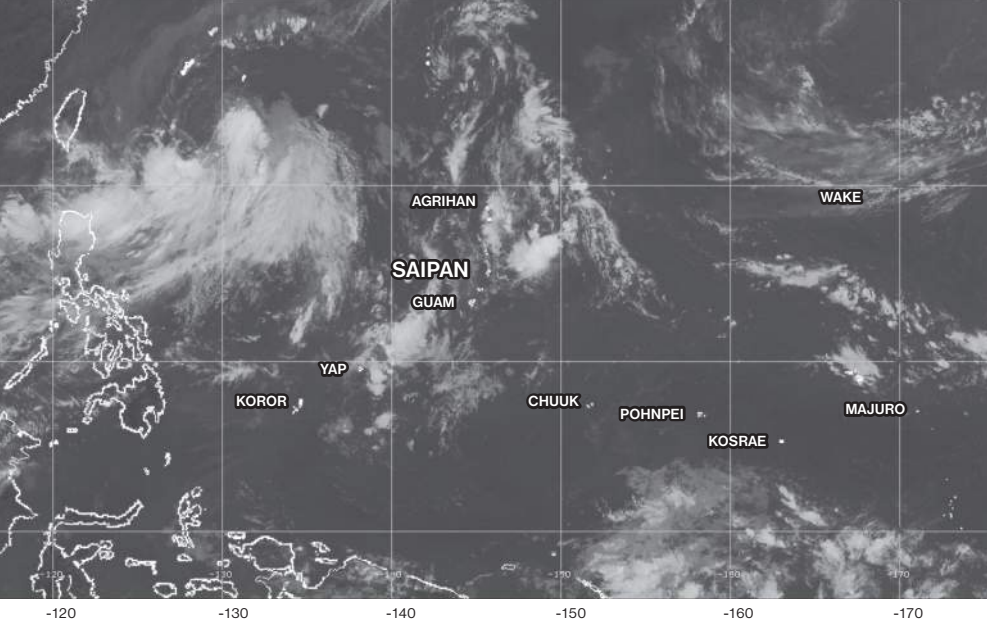


# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
86°78°	88°78°	88°78°	88°78°	87°78°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



**PICTURE TIME: 5:51 AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2019**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show scattered showers and a few thunderstorms moving southward near Rota and Guam. A couple lines of showers and thunderstorms are also seen farther north nearer Saipan. A weak circulation is found to the east of Saipan near 15N152E and is slowly moving west. Meanwhile, to the west, an upper-level low sits near 15N142E and is what helped to generate the heavy showers and thunderstorms overnight.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 78°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	88° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	88° / 82°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	61° / 48°	
Beijing	Sunny	84° / 57°	
Hong Kong	Sunny	90° / 77°	
Honolulu	Showers	88° / 77°	
London	Sunny	72° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	79° / 63°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	84° / 75°	
Melbourne	Rain	61° / 43°	
Miami	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
New York	Sunny	81° / 64°	
Osaka	Rain	75° / 72°	
Paris	Sunny	72° / 50°	
Busan	Rain	73° / 68°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	81° / 61°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	85° / 62°	
San Francisco	Sunny	71° / 55°	
Seoul	Cloudy	75° / 63°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	75° / 63°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	81° / 59°	



### NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:20 AM	LOW TIDE	0.31	
11:55 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.65	
5:38 PM	LOW TIDE	1.05	
10:56 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.69	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:15 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:13 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:43 AM	10:27 PM
Saturday	-	11:37 AM	11:16 PM
Sunday	-	12:33 AM	-
Monday	12:09 AM	1:30 PM	-
Tuesday	1:07 AM	2:28 PM	-

#### NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com)

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:57am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:07am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174	9:45pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	11:30pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1	UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7	UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA116/174	10:45pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (*The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.*)

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily				
GUAM TO ROTA							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily				
SAIPAN TO TINIAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily				
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily				

### TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



# 7-day prison sentence for man in document fraud

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

An overstaying Chinese tourist who is accused of obtaining his CNMI driver's license using fraudulent papers pleaded guilty last Tuesday and was slapped with a prison term of seven days, with credit for time served.

Ercang Yang pleaded guilty to conspiring with others to unlawfully produce an identification document, which carries a maximum penalty of not more than 15 years in prison.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona also placed Yang on one year of supervised release. That included a condition that he will be deported as soon as he is released from prison.

He was also ordered to pay a \$500 fine and \$100 special assessment fee.

U.S. Homeland Security Investigations agents arrested Yang Tuesday last week.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, Yang conspired with another person on July 29, 2019, to obtain a CNMI driver's license by presenting a falsified U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Form I-797 as evidence of his lawful status in the CNMI.

With the other person's assistance, Yang got a fraudulently-obtained CNMI driver's license on July 29, 2019. He presented the fraudulent driver's license to a Federal Protective Services inspector last Sept. 10.

Yang used the driver's license in working as a taxi driver.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe appeared as counsel for the U.S. government. David G. Baner served as court-appointed counsel for Yang.

HSI filed the complaint against Yang for allegedly producing a fraudulently obtained identification document to law enforcement personnel.

In his affidavit in support of the criminal complaint, Homeland Security Investigations special agent Erwin T. Fejeran stated that it was Federal Protective Services inspector Sean White who first encountered Yang.

Fejeran said White was performing security patrol of federal government facilities last Sept. 10 when he saw a Toyota Camry make an abrupt turn into the shoulder of Chalan Pale Arnold Road adjacent to the Mariana Heights II building and park.

Fejeran said DHS records confirmed that Yang is a Chinese national who entered the

CNMI on Dec. 28, 2015, and was granted CNMI-only conditional parole by U.S. Customs and Border Protection until Jan. 14, 2016.

Fejeran said Yang overstayed his authorized parole date and is subject for deportation.

According to the DHS systems, the agent said, the receipt number listed on Yang's immigration form I-797A was valid but registered to another individual and not as-

signed to Yang.

A records check conducted on Yang's name and date of birth revealed no immigration petitions for him. Based on this result, Fejeran said, it was determined that Yang's I-797 was fraudulent.

Mainly through White, HSI agents have lately arrested several overstaying Chinese tourists who were caught driving illegal taxis using driver's licenses obtained through fraudulent documents.



## Pacific Islands Development Bank

Pacific Islands Development Bank (PIDB) is a regional development finance institution with Headquarters on Guam. Information about PIDB are available on the Bank's website, [www.pacificidb.com](http://www.pacificidb.com). The Bank is seeking qualified applicants for the following positions:

### PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)

#### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Prepare action plans toward the accomplishment of the goals and objectives stated in the Bank's Strategic Plan and executing such plans with approval and under supervision of the Board of Directors.
2. Implement and enforce all policies, procedures, and regulations of the Bank approved by the Board of Directors and Board of Governors.
3. Manage the day-to-day operation of the Bank to ensure that the key functions are satisfactorily performed, which functions may include but not limited to:
  - a. Extending financing and finance-related facilities to prospective borrowers.
  - b. Administration of loan funds according to the criteria established for such funds.
  - c. Install and maintain proper accounting policies and procedures for all funds transacted through and by the bank.
  - d. Engage in capital development activities so as to strengthen the Bank's capital structure while creating a favorable investment climate for the member nations and States.
  - e. Participate in the establishment and acquisition of other viable credit instruments that will generate financial facilities for investors and of the members islands and nations.
  - f. Negotiate and implement credit borrowing from external sources with a view toward providing stronger development loan packages to borrowers in the private and public sectors.
  - g. Ensure timely production of required external and internal reports.
4. Recruiting, appointing and hiring qualified persons to the Bank's staff and other professional staff as may be necessary from time to time; and provide staff training and timely performance review.
5. Organize and chair Board of Directors meeting and facilitate meetings of the Board of Governors.
6. Perform other functions as are customary and usual for the Chief Executive Officer of a financial institution.

#### JOB REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS:

1. College degree in Economics, Finance, Business Administration, Accounting or related fields.
2. Minimum of 5 years work experience in banking and the financial industry or related experience.
3. Strong lending and credit background and experience.
4. Good knowledge and familiarity on PIDB member nations and States.
5. Able to undertake high level dialogue with regional leaders on strategic and policy issues.
6. Strong management, analytical, presentation, and negotiation skills.
7. Proven interpersonal skills to lead and manage a team of highly professional staff.
8. Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
9. Able to travel to bank's member countries and markets.
10. Eligible to work in Guam.

#### SALARY AND BENEFITS:

Attractive and competitive salary and benefit package, negotiable based on experience and qualifications.

#### DUTY STATION:

Guam, U.S.A.

#### HOW TO APPLY:

Submit current bio data with 3 reference letters to:  
Pacific Islands Development Bank  
400 Route 8, Suite 405  
Mongmong, Guam, 96910

You may email the above to Manager of Administration at [rosa@pacificidb.com](mailto:rosa@pacificidb.com)

**CLOSING DATE:** September 27, 2019

Pacific Islands Development Bank  
is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider and Employer

First Hawaiian Bank Building, 400 Route 8, Suite 405, Mongmong, Guam 96910  
Tel.: (671) 477-0047 • Fax: (671) 477-0067  
Website: [www.pacificidb.com](http://www.pacificidb.com)



**Military Veterans Town Hall Meeting on:**  
**Tuesday, September 24, 2019**  
**from 6:00pm to 8:00pm**  
**At the Office Veterans Affairs**  
**1364 Anatahan Dr. Capital Hill, Saipan**

**Thursday, September 26, 2019**  
**from 6:00pm to 8:00pm**  
**At the Tinian Mayor's Office**  
**Conference Room**

**Town Hall Meeting to discuss current**  
**and all Military Veterans related issues.**

**If you have questions, contact:**  
**Vivian S. Taitano at (670) 664-2651**



NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE  
P.O. BOX 506689, SAIPAN, MP 96950  
PHONE: 670.234.3878

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Do you believe in ending violence in the CNMI? Are you a self-starting and motivated individual? NMCADSV is looking for a new team member! Read on to find out how you can be part of this amazing movement!

#### Minimum Qualifications:

- An agreement with NMCADSV's philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence
- High School Diploma or Equivalent
- Experience providing clerical and administrative support
- Demonstrated abilities in verbal and written communication
- Proficiency in MS Word and Excel
- Flexible Schedule (May be occasionally required to work evenings and weekends)
- Must be able to travel within the CNMI and the to the U.S. Mainland

#### Extra consideration will be given for the following:

- One (1) year documented experience/work with non-profit and/or charitable organizations
- Own transportation with a valid driver's license, insurance and registration

For a full list of duties, please stop by the NMCADSV office or email [info@endviolencenmi.org](mailto:info@endviolencenmi.org)  
**No phone inquiries, please.**

**Classification & Salary Range:** Full-time, Non-Exempt, 40 hours per week,  
\$10.00/hr. ~ \$14.00/hr. (based on experience and qualifications)

#### Application Deadline and Submission Information:

Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on  
**Friday, September 20, 2019.**

*If submitting certificates and awards, please provide a list only. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.*

Applications can be submitted via email to [info@endviolencenmi.org](mailto:info@endviolencenmi.org), delivered to NMCADSV's office (**between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.**) at the Marina Heights I Building, Suite 206, or mailed to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma(s) or equivalent, Police Clearance, and a list of references.

*This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice and Grant # G-1801MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*



# Business

## Food To Come launches meal delivery

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Mir Mosharuf had an epiphany of sorts during a recent trip to the U.S. mainland that convinced him to set up a Food To Come, a new meal delivery service that brings your favorite food right to your door.

Company spokesperson Jim Hinds told *Saipan Tribune* that Mosharuf has been driving a taxi on Saipan for 25 years and recently went to New York, Buffalo, and Honolulu and found prepared food delivery to be wildly successful in those cities, and managed to learn the industry before returning to Saipan last year.

Currently, Food To Come delivers food from The Shack, Airstream, and 360 Revolving restaurant, but Hinds said the meal delivery service can deliver from any restaurant on island.

The way it works is the customer calls their restaurant of choice and order their food. They then call Food To Come and the service picks up the order and delivers it to their house, office, or any other place they want the food delivered.

Hinds said the customer can



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Food To Come owner Mir Mosharuf carries an insulated bag while on one of his delivery runs.

arrange to pay the restaurant through credit card, debit card, or any other online payment. Food To Come can also take cash payment on delivery. The delivery charge is \$5 for Kolberville to Garapan and \$8 for outlying areas.

Waiting time is as less as 15 minutes to a maximum of 35 minutes—10 to 20 minutes for food prep and five to 15 minutes for delivery.

So far, the meal delivery service has been a hit for customers and restaurant owners alike.

"People love it! Clerks and teachers that can't leave the office are repeat customers. Business owners also find a \$100-\$500 increase in their

orders by serving this extra marketplace," said Hinds.

The biggest fulfillment the fledgling delivery service has experienced so far is "the genuine smile on the faces of the customer's we serve," according to Hinds.

The biggest challenge, meanwhile, are customers calling in to order from off-island restaurants.

The Food To Come meal delivery service is available from 10am to 2pm with plans to eventually extend it to 10pm.

For more information on Food To Come or to arrange pickup and delivery, call 783-0337. Customers can also call the meal delivery service's main restaurant partners The Shack at 286-7422, Airstream at 788-0579, and 360 Restaurant at 234-3600.

## Striking workers question whether UAW leaders can be trusted

ROMULUS, Mich. (AP)—The strike against General Motors by the United Auto Workers is playing out amid a corruption scandal inside the UAW that has caused distrust of the union leadership among many rank-and-file members.

On picket lines at plants across the country, many of the 49,000 workers have expressed doubts about whether UAW leaders are acting in their best interests in the dispute and in their handling of union money in general. Some have gone so far as to wonder whether the leadership took them out on strike to show that the union is working for them.

"Where there's big money, there's dishonesty, unfortunately," 41-year employee Brian Jaeger said outside a parts distribution center in Van Buren Township, Michigan. He said he is grateful for the life that the union has brought his family and he supports the strike, but he is also suspicious of the leadership.

The walkout began Monday, with UAW members saying they want a bigger share of the billions that the No. 1 U.S. automaker has made off their hard work since it emerged from bankruptcy a decade ago with the help of union concessions. The strike—authorized Sunday in a vote by about 200 local union representatives—has shut down more than 30 factories in nine states, mostly in the Midwest.

In August, the FBI raided the suburban Detroit home of UAW President Gary Jones as part of the widening federal investigation. He has not been charged and has not commented on the raid. Earlier this month, Jones' succes-

sor as union regional director in Missouri was charged in a \$600,000 embezzlement scheme, and another UAW official pleaded guilty to taking kickbacks from union vendors.

Eight other people—including five UAW officials—have been convicted over the past two years of looting a jointly run Fiat Chrysler-UAW training center for blue-collar workers, with prosecutors alleging that \$1.2 million was diverted to keep union officials "fat, dumb and happy" while they collaborated with the automaker in contract talks.

Amid all this, the UAW is trying to reach a new four-year agreement with GM.

"That's sickening," Clarence Trinity, 47, a UAW machinist, said of the scandal. "If it's true, that's upsetting because they raised our union dues. But it seems like they raised our union dues maybe just to line their pockets."

Trinity, who works at a GM engine and transmission plant in the Detroit suburb of Romulus, said he remains loyal to the union and will picket for more hours than scheduled to support fellow workers. He said he wants to preserve their health care, get permanent jobs for temporary workers and stop the company from moving production to other countries.

Still, the 22-year GM employee and others questioned the union's negotiating tactics and its motives in calling the walkout. Phil Cuthbertson, who works at GM's transmission plant in Toledo, Ohio, said he wonders whether the leadership was quick to strike this time because it wanted to restore members' faith that it is working for them.

## Johnson faces Brexit flak from EU lawmakers and top UK court

STRASBOURG, France (AP)—British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was accused by European Union officials Wednesday of failing to negotiate seriously and branded the "father of lies" by a lawyer in the U.K. Supreme Court, as his plan to leave the EU in just over six weeks faced hurdles on both sides of the Channel.

In Strasbourg, France, the European Parliament said it would be the fault of Britain, not the bloc, if the U.K. crashed out of the EU without a divorce deal on the scheduled Oct. 31 departure day.

In London, Johnson's government battled to convince the U.K.'s top court that the prime minister's decision to suspend Parliament for five weeks with Brexit looming was neither illegal nor improper. The government's opponents claim Johnson illegally shut down the legislature to prevent lawmakers from scrutinizing his Brexit plans.

Government lawyer James Eadie told 11 Supreme Court justices that the decision to send lawmakers home until Oct. 14 was "inherently and fundamentally political in nature," and not a matter for the judiciary. He said that if the court intervened it would violate the "fundamental con-

stitutional principle" of the separation of powers.

But a lawyer for lawmakers challenging the shutdown accused the government of being "unworthy of our trust."

"We've got here the mother of parliaments being shut down by the father of lies," said attorney Aidan O'Neill. He urged the judges to "stand up for truth, stand up for reason, stand up for diversity, stand up for Parliament, stand up for democracy."

The judges, for their part, wondered why Johnson had refused to provide a sworn statement to the court about his reasons for the suspension.

"Isn't it odd that nobody has signed a witness statement to say: 'This is true. These are the true reasons for what was done'?" said one of the judges, Nicholas Wilson.

The developments were the latest in a rocky week for Johnson, who pulled out of a news conference with the prime minister of Luxembourg on Monday because of noisy protesters nearby. On Wednesday he was berated by the father of a sick child over funding cuts to Britain's health service as he visited a London hospital.

Johnson took power in July with a vow that Britain will leave the EU on Oct. 31

"come what may." He promised to break a stalemate that saw the Brexit agreement struck between the EU and Johnson's predecessor Theresa May rejected three times by Britain's Parliament, prompting May to resign.

Many lawmakers believe a no-deal Brexit would be economically devastating and socially destabilizing, and have put obstacles in Johnson's path, including legal challenges to the Parliament shutdown.

Last week, Scotland's highest civil court ruled the move illegal, saying it had the intention of stymieing Parliament. The High Court in London, however, said it was not a matter for the courts.

The Supreme Court is being asked to decide who is right in a three-day hearing that ends Thursday. If it overturns the suspension, lawmakers could be called back to Parliament as early as next week.

Johnson insists he is working hard to get an agreement with the EU that will ensure a smooth departure. EU leaders are skeptical of that claim.

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said Wednesday that the risk of a no-deal Brexit remained "very real" because Britain still had not produced work-

able new proposals.

"I asked the British prime minister to specify the alternative arrangements that he could envisage," Juncker said. "As long as such proposals are not made, I cannot tell you—while looking you straight in the eye—that progress is being made."

Juncker, who met with Johnson on Monday, told a gathering of the European Parliament that a no-deal Brexit "might be the choice of the U.K., but it will never be ours."

The main sticking point over a Brexit deal is the Irish border "backstop," an insurance policy that would require Britain to respect EU trade and customs rules in order to avoid a hard border between EU member Ireland and the U.K.'s Northern Ireland until a better solution is found.

Pro-Brexit British politicians oppose the backstop because it would prevent the U.K. from striking new trade deals around the world. Johnson says he won't back any Brexit deal unless the backstop is removed.

But the EU sees the measure as essential to ensuring an open border, which underpins the local economy and the peace process that ended decades of violence in Northern Ireland.



# Nation

## Oregon sees push for strictest gun storage law in US

**SALEM, Ore.** (AP)—Carol Manstrom says she lost her 18-year-old son when he grabbed his father's unsecured pistol and shot himself. Paul Kemp lost his brother-in-law when a man opened fire with a stolen AR-15 assault-style rifle at a shopping mall.

On Wednesday, Manstrom and Kemp helped deliver 2,000 signatures to Oregon's elections office as part of an effort to get a measure on the 2020 ballot that would create the stiffest law in America requiring the safe storage of firearms.

The initiative would require guns to be secured with a trigger or cable lock, or in a locked container. It also mandates that a lost or stolen firearm be reported within 24 hours and makes violators of the measure liable for any injury from an unsecured weapon, except in matters of self-defense or defense of another person.

Massachusetts is the only state in the country that requires all people to keep their firearms safely stored when not under their immediate control, said Allison Anderman, managing attorney at Giffords, a gun-control advocacy group. The Oregon initiative goes further because it makes gun owners strictly liable to lawsuits if their unsecured weapons cause injuries or damage.

"I do believe this would

be the first law of its kind in the country to impose strict liability on a person who violates the law," Anderman said. "If your gun is used to harm someone else because you violated the state storage law, then you are strictly liable for those damages."

Furthermore, each violation of the proposed law carries fines up to \$2,000.

Manstrom, with a cardboard box containing the 2,000 signatures next to her, described how she lost her son Will in 2017, just a month after he and his girlfriend split up. Teens sometimes make impulsive decisions, Manstrom said.

"In the case of my son Will, it was a decision that we'll never be able to take back," Manstrom said at a news conference in the state capitol. "If a loaded gun was not easily accessible to him that night, I believe he would be with us today."

Kemp's brother-in-law was killed by a gunman who had stolen an AR-15 from an acquaintance. The gunman also killed a woman and seriously wounded a third person at the Clackamas Town Center near Portland before killing himself.

"The legal gun owner didn't tell police his guns were missing until (the mall attack) was national news," Kemp said.

Three state lawmakers, also appearing at the news confer-

ence, vowed to push a bill in next year's legislative session that would enact the same storage requirements. If it passes, it would render any ballot initiative moot. But if the bill fails, the measure would have a second chance by going directly to voters in November.

Anderman said putting anything between a person's impulse to take their own life and a gun could give the person a moment to reconsider.

Suicides account for 85% of gun deaths in Oregon, said one of the lawmakers, Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer, a Portland Democrat. The national rate is around 66%, Anderman said.

Safe storage could also reduce the number of school shootings because most minors who commit those attacks obtain the gun from their home or the home of a family member or friend, Anderman said.

A safe-storage law "can really address a whole host of gun related harm," she said.

A firearms storage bill was packaged with other gun-control measures during Oregon's 2019 legislative session that ended in June.

There were some vocal opponents.

"I want to be able to defend myself and family without asking the perpetrator to stop until I unlock my gun," Jeffrey Slaughter, of Woodburn, told

lawmakers. Others spoke of infringement on gun rights.

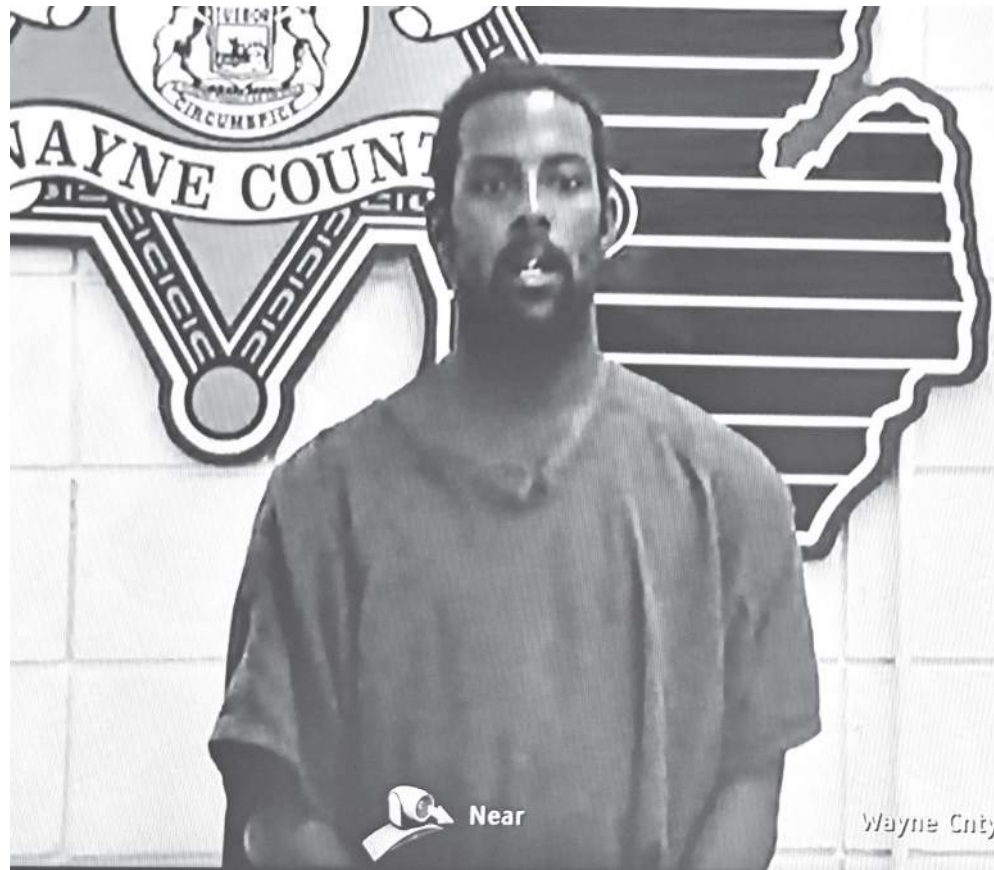
The gun-control effort was scrapped by Democrats in order to lure back Republi-

can senators who had staged a walkout over a school funding tax.

After the news conference Wednesday, supporters deliv-

ered the signatures to the elections office. To win a place on the 2020 ballot, 112,020 valid signatures of voters must be turned in by July 2.

## Prosecutor: Man charged in killings of 4 women in Detroit



Deangelo Martin is displayed on a monitor during his video arraignment at 36th District Court, Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2019, in Detroit.

**DETROIT** (AP)—A prosecutor announced murder charges Wednesday against a 34-year-old man in the slayings of four women in Detroit whose deaths authorities have characterized as the work of a serial killer.

Deangelo Martin is charged with four counts of first-degree murder and four counts of felony murder in the killings of the women whose bodies were found in abandoned houses in the city as far back as February 2018, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said at a news conference.

Martin was arraigned Wednesday afternoon. A probable cause conference was scheduled for Oct. 2 and a preliminary examination on Oct. 9.

Martin, who was arrested in June, was already charged in the stabbing and sexual assault of 26-year-old woman in May and the kidnapping and assault of a 51-year-old woman in June.

Police Chief James Craig has said he sees similarities between three of the slayings and the assaults of at least two other women who survived attacks.

"I think it's pretty clear that we believe he is a serial killer," Worthy said.

She named the victims as Annetta Nelson, 57, whose

body was found Feb. 26, 2018; Nancy Harrison, 52, who was discovered March 19, 2019; Trevesene Ellis, 55, was found March 24; and Tamara Jones, 55, who was found June 5.

All the victims were found face down with a used condom beside them, she said. A coroner determined that Nelson and Harrison died of blunt force trauma but the cause of death for the other two couldn't be determined because their bodies were too badly decomposed, Worthy said.

Police are investigating two additional possible homicide cases that might also be connected, she said.

The Associated Press left a message Wednesday seeking comment from Martin's appointed defense attorney in the assault and kidnapping cases.

Police have said they believe all the women were sex workers.

"Predators ... look for people who are seemingly vulnerable, left out and left behind," Worthy said. "People that they think will not fight back, people that they think nobody cares about, people that they think won't be missed. But they're wrong."

She continued: "We worked tirelessly to make sure that we can bring them some modicum of justice, of respect and

of dignity, no matter what they were engaged in before, during, after they were reported missing."

Martin was initially arrested in June in the rape and attempted murder of a woman who was able to escape the attack. At that point, police had already uncovered three homicide victims, and teams of police officers and other city workers were searching hundreds of vacant buildings for more bodies.

"This is the kind of case that creates so much fear in our community," Craig said during the news conference. "We're very diligent, relentless in how we approach these matters."

Six years ago, Detroit had at least 30,000 empty houses and 20 square miles (50 square kilometers) of vacant land. Mayor Mike Duggan has said removing blighted houses is a priority in his efforts to revive Detroit since the city's 2014 exit from the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history.

Duggan this week announced plans to ask voters to approve the sale of up to \$250 million in bonds to eradicate residential blight across the city. A proposed resolution to put the initiative on the March 2020 ballot has been submitted to the City Council.



### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Uptick seen in rare mosquito-borne virus in some US states

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The number of U.S. deaths and illnesses from a rare mosquito-borne virus are higher than usual this year, health officials report. Eastern equine encephalitis has been diagnosed in 21 people in six states, and five people have died. The infection is only being seen in certain counties within a small number of states. The U.S. each year has seen seven illnesses and three deaths, on average. It's not clear why numbers are up this year, but for some reason cases seem to spike once every several years, Dr. Mark Fischer, an expert at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said Wednesday. Most infections occur in the summer, so health officials do not think it will get much worse. Massachusetts has eight cases, followed by Michigan, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey and North Carolina.

#### Ref who told wrestler to cut dreadlocks barred for 2 seasons

**TRENTON, N.J.** (AP)—A referee who told a New Jersey high school wrestler to cut his dreadlocks or forfeit a match last year was suspended by the state for two seasons Wednesday, and officials also announced mandatory bias training for all referees and coaches involved in high school athletics. Referee Alan Maloney, who is white, told Buena Regional wrestler Andrew Johnson, who identifies as multi-racial, that he had to cut his hair or forfeit the match last December. A widely disseminated

video showed Johnson's hair being cut on the sidelines. The state Division on Civil Rights investigation found that Maloney determined that Johnson required a hair covering and gave Johnson the choice of cutting his hair or forfeiting after no covering could be located that satisfied rules governing long hair. The report concluded, however, that various New Jersey wrestling officials had interpreted the rule to apply to various traditionally black hair styles regardless of length.

#### Chicago woman shot by gunman on bicycle while walking

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Chicago police say a woman walking with co-workers along a street near the central business district was shot by a bicyclist. Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson says the shooter passed a group of people Wednesday and went directly to the victim and fired a single shot. Johnson described the shooter as a male wearing dark clothing, a dark baseball cap and light-colored gym shoes. He was riding a dark-colored mountain bike. Chicago Fire Department spokesman Larry Langford says paramedics found the woman lying on a sidewalk, adding she "heard gunfire, felt pain and went down." The woman was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital and authorities say she is expected to survive. Johnson says the shooting happened around noon, as the women and co-workers were heading to lunch. He says surveillance cameras operated by businesses in the area captured the shooting on video.



# Asia

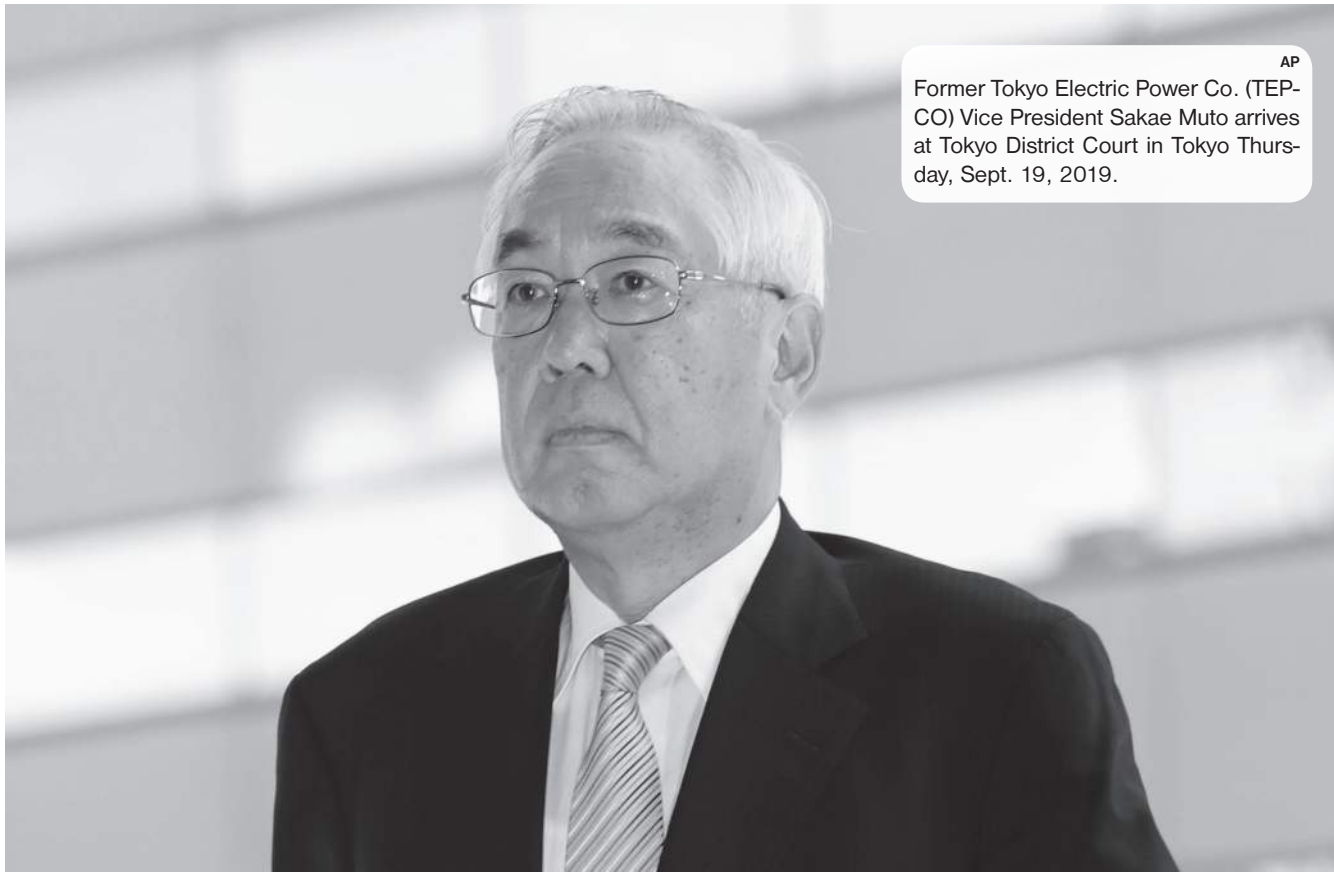
## Japan court to rule on TEPCO execs nuclear crisis liability

**TOKYO (AP)**—A Japanese court will decide Thursday whether three former executives for Tokyo Electric Power Co. are liable for the 2011 Fukushima meltdowns, the only criminal trial in the nuclear disaster that has kept tens of thousands of residents away from their homes due to lingering radiation contamination.

At stake in the high profile case at the Tokyo District Court is whether ex-TEPCO chairman Tsunehisa Katsumata, 79, and two former executives could have foreseen the tsunami that struck the plant after an earthquake and effectively taken preventive measures that would have saved the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant on Japan's north-eastern coast.

Katsumata and co-defendants, Sakae Muto, 69, and Ichiro Takekuro, 73, apologized over the disaster but pleaded not guilty during the trial's opening session in June 2017. They said predicting the enormous tsunami was impossible.

Three of the plant's reactors had meltdowns after the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011, spreading radiation into surrounding communities and into the sea.



Former Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) Vice President Sakae Muto arrives at Tokyo District Court in Tokyo Thursday, Sept. 19, 2019.

Prosecutors in December demanded a five-year prison sentence for each executive, accusing them of professional negligence by not taking sufficient measures to guard against the threat of a tsunami despite knowing the risks. The executives are also accused of causing the death of 44 elderly pa-

tients whose health deteriorated during or after forced evacuation from a local hospital.

Hiroyuki Kawai, a lawyer representing more than 5,700 Fukushima residents who filed a criminal complaint to prosecutors to investigate, said he is expecting the legal battle to last about a decade because

whichever side loses will appeal the ruling.

"This is only the beginning of a major battle," he said at a rally ahead of Thursday's ruling. "Our ultimate goal is to eradicate dangerous nuclear plants that have thrown many residents into despair."

Prosecutors told the court that the three defendants had access to data and scientific studies that anticipated the risk of a tsunami exceeding 10 meters (30 feet) that could trigger a loss of power

and severe accidents.

Defense attorneys for the TEPCO executives have said in court that the tsunami projection was not well-established and divided experts. They said the actual damage was larger than projected, and that if TEPCO had taken steps based on the projection, it would not have prevented the disaster.

Prosecutors said TEPCO was already conducting a tsunami safety review following a 2007 earthquake in Niigata, another location in northern

Japan, and the three former executives routinely participated in the process. In March 2008, a TEPCO subsidiary projected that a tsunami as high as 15.7 meters (47 feet) could hit Fukushima, prompting the construction of seawalls to be considered.

The executives had access to other similar tsunami projections and that they could have had preventive measures installed before the accident if they acted more proactively and quickly, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors said Muto ordered further examination by experts, in effect delaying the plan. They said TEPCO opted to avoid additional spending as it was burdened at the time with repairs to another nuclear plant damaged in the 2007 quake.

Prosecutors presented hundreds of pieces of evidence including emails between safety officials and the two vice presidents that suggested increasing concern and a need to take additional tsunami measures at the plant. More than 20 TEPCO officials and scientists testified in court.

Government and parliamentary investigation reports have said TEPCO's lack of a safety culture and weak risk management, including an underestimation of tsunami risks, led to the disaster. They said TEPCO ignored tsunami protection measures amid collusion with regulators.

## South Korea confirms 2nd case of African swine fever

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—South Korea on Wednesday confirmed a second case of African swine fever near its border with North Korea, raising concerns that the outbreak could spread and wreak havoc on the country's massive pig herds.

Officials were planning to cull some 5,000 pigs raised at a farm in the town of Yeoncheon after the highly contagious disease was confirmed in tests of a dead pig, a South Korean agriculture ministry official said.

**BEIJING (AP)**—China's government is releasing pork from stockpiles to help cool surging prices ahead of Oct. 1 celebrations of the Communist Party's 70th anniversary in power.

The price of pork, China's staple meat, has soared almost 50% from a year ago due to a devastating outbreak of African swine fever that killed or prompted authorities to destroy pigs. That has pushed up global pork prices as importers buy foreign supplies.

A government agency that manages the stockpile of frozen pork said Wednesday it

will auction off 10,000 tons.

That is equivalent to less than 0.2% of China's 2018 monthly consumption of 4.7 million tons, which suggests the announcement was a signal to consumers and farmers of Beijing's determination to cool prices instead of an attempt to change supply levels.

Officials culled nearly 4,000 pigs and stepped up quarantine efforts Tuesday after confirming the country's first case of the disease at the nearby city of Paju.

African swine fever is harmless to humans but very contagious and fatal for pigs. It has decimated herds in China and other Asian countries and there is no known cure.

There are about 6,300 farms in South Korea that raise more than 11 million pigs.

Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon said wild animals, vehicles or even human travel may be causing the virus to spread. Officials are looking into the possibility that the disease was introduced by wild boars following an earlier outbreak in North Korea.

"I urge you to quickly respond and do whatever you

can," Lee said.

The agriculture ministry said officials also were stepping up disinfection of farms and vehicles and restricting movements of farmers, animals and visitors to contain the disease.

"We will obviously cull the 4,700 pigs raised at the Yeoncheon farm and could cull more pigs at farms in neighboring areas if needed," said the ministry official, who declined to be named, citing office rules.

Gyeonggi province, which governs Yeoncheon and Paju, canceled a slew of events that had been planned in the towns through October, including a pop concert, a marathon and ceremonies marking the first anniversary of a Pyongyang summit between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last September. A film festival that was to open on Friday at the border village of Imjingak was moved to Goyang city.

The outbreak in South Korea comes after months of heightened monitoring efforts at border area farms after the disease spread to North Korea in May.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Pakistan: No talks with India until Kashmir status restored

**ISLAMABAD (AP)**—Pakistan's prime minister announced Wednesday that his government will not hold any talks with India until New Delhi lifts a curfew in Kashmir and reinstates the disputed region's special autonomous status. Imran Khan said told reporters that will expose human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir when he addresses the United Nations General Assembly next week in New York. New Delhi moved to strip the portion of Kashmir it controls of its limited autonomy on Aug. 5. Authorities imposed a sweeping military curfew that's still in place, and cut off residents from all communication and the internet. Mobile phone services have yet to be restored. In a further sign of growing tension, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi won't be allowed to fly through Pakistani airspace next week on his way to the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

#### South Korea police say they may have found serial killer

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—South Korean police say they have found a suspect thought to be an infamous serial killer wanted for the slaying of nine women some 30 years ago. Police said Thursday they've found a person whose DNA matches samples taken from evidence

collected from some of the crime scenes. South Korean media reported the suspect is a 56-year-old man who is serving a life sentence for raping and killing his sister-in-law in 1994. The same suspect is thought to be responsible for the rape and slaying of nine women in Hwasong, a city just south of Seoul, between 1986 and 1991. The victims were aged between 13 and 71 and their bodies were all discovered bound by their own clothes. The case inspired the 2003 movie "Memories of Murder."

#### Thai officials deny swine fever outbreak after culling news

**BANGKOK (AP)**—Thailand's government on Tuesday denied rumors of an outbreak of African swine fever that spread after media reports of the culling of pigs in the country's north. A statement by Deputy Agriculture Minister Prapat Pothasuthon said that while no outbreak has been confirmed, road checkpoints have been established to block the transport of pigs out of designated risk areas, mostly along the border with Myanmar. Thailand bars pig imports from Myanmar, which reported its first swine fever outbreak last month. Two other neighbors of Thailand, Laos and Cambodia, have also reported small outbreaks. A report by The Nation news website said about 200 pigs in the northern province of Chiang Rai had recently been culled and tissue samples from them sent for laboratory testing.



# World

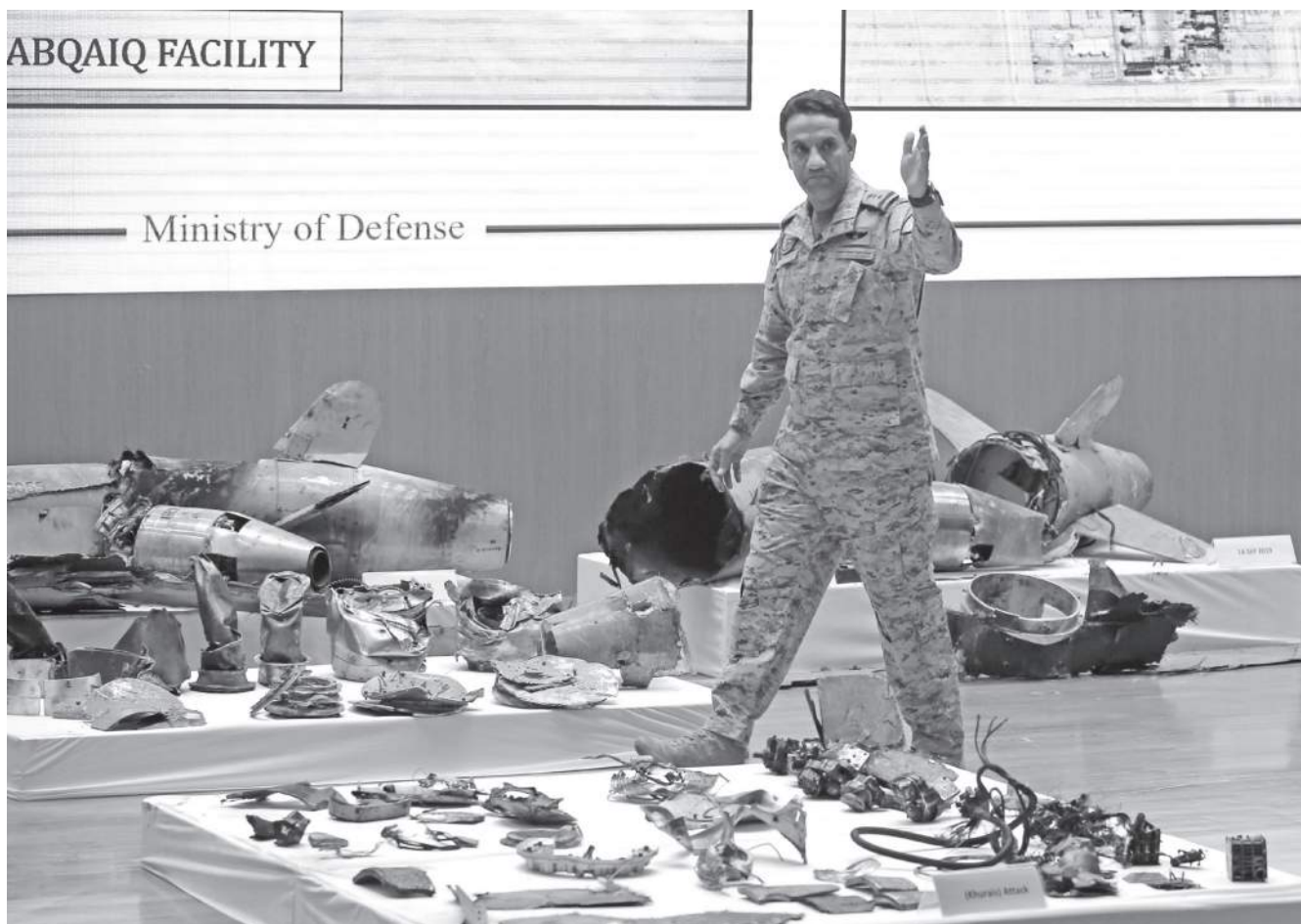
## Analysts: Weapons in Saudi attack similar to Iranian ones

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)**—A cruise missile and drone fragments that Saudi Arabia says it recovered from an attack on its oil industry bear similarities to Iranian-manufactured weapons, though more information is needed to make a definitive link, analysts told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Particularly striking was the cruise missile, which they said resembled a Quds-1 missile previously displayed by Yemen's Houthi rebels during a televised weapons exhibition in July.

However, the analysts uniformly agreed that missile, with its small, Czech-made TJ100 turbo engine, is limited to a range of 700 kilometers (435 miles). That means it could not have been fired from Yemen, which is over 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from the oil-processing facility and oil field that were targeted in Saturday's attack claimed by the Houthis.

"It did not come from Yemen," said Michael Elleman, a missile expert at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "I think the intel reporting seems to be pretty consistently saying that no, this did not come from Yemen, even though they claimed credit for it."



Saudi military spokesman Col. Turki al-Malki displays what he describes as an Iranian cruise missile and drones used in an attack this weekend that targeted the heart of Saudi Arabia's oil industry, during a press conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2019. AP

Saudi Arabia alleged Wednesday that the attack was "unquestionably sponsored by Iran." Iran denies being involved and has threatened the U.S. that it will retaliate

"immediately" if Tehran is targeted in response.

The location where the cruise missile fell harmlessly to the ground, north of its intended target, also suggests it came from

the north, said Sim Tack, an analyst at the Texas-based private intelligence firm Stratfor.

"I think the case is definitely becoming stronger for the argument that it wasn't launched from Yemen," he said.

Also, the Houthis are not known to have the capability

to build cruise missiles locally.

"The idea that impoverished, war-torn Yemen would be able to develop a cruise missile without any outside assistance seems far-fetched," wrote Fabian Hinz, a researcher at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies



at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Montecito, California.

Iran's previous efforts to supply missiles to the Houthis, and the fact that the country uses TJ100 engines in its drone program "do imply that Iran could be behind the Quds-1," Hinz added.

Iran long has denied arming the Houthis, though U.N. experts, Western nations and the Saudi-led coalition have pointed to weapons recovered on the battlefield that appear to have come from the Islamic Republic.

Saudi military spokesman Col. Turki al-Malki told journalists in Riyadh that the cruise missile was a "Ya Ali" variant. However, that missile is fired from the air by a fighter jet and has collapsible wings, Tack said. The one on display in Riyadh appeared to have fixed wings like a ground-fired missile, suggesting that it could be a newly made ground-fired variant.

## Survivors on Bahamas island mark time as officials lay plans

**GRAND ABACO, Bahamas (AP)**—A handful of men hover around Gayle Wallace as she hands out four fish sandwiches with a dab of ketchup on each at the cramped home she rents in Murphy Town. Some are friends, others family. All are part of a new community of survivors emerging nearly three weeks after Hurricane Dorian blasted through the northern Bahamas, killing at least 50 people as one of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes on record.

These are the ones who stayed behind as everyone else fled, the ones vowing to rebuild on Great Abaco Island with the help of people like Wallace after the storm decimated neighborhoods Sept. 1 with winds of 185 mph and flooding that reached 25 feet high in some areas.

"Basically, she's the tree of the community right now," said 39-year-old Jean Richie. "We're still trying to come to terms this happened. We in a daze."

Thousands of people like Wallace and Richie remain

in limbo as local officials debate how they will help Bahamians rebuild their lives. Non-profit groups now await directions from the government after blanketing hard-hit Abaco and Grand Bahama islands with food, water and manpower following the Category 5 storm.

Carl Smith, spokesman for the Bahamas' National Emergency Management Agency, said the government was nearing the end of the immediate response to Dorian and moving into a phase where it will focus on restoring basic services, including repairing roads, bridges and airports. After that, he said, officials will focus on reconstruction as they assess damage and needs.

"Over the past three weeks, our country has been through a traumatic experience," Smith said. "There may still be individuals and groups in remote areas that we are not aware of."

Bodies are still being found, including two discovered Sunday under debris in Marsh Harbor, just on the other side of the street where

the emergency agency has set up temporary headquarters in a grocery store.

In addition, more than 1,300 people have been reported as missing, but the government has said it expects that number to drop because many may be in shelters or staying with family or friends.

Rob Jenkins, USAID disaster assistance response team leader, said his agency and others are helping the government go through the list of names to ensure they are indeed missing.

"While the list is very scary, we expect based on what has happened in the past to see a dramatic decrease over time," he said, referring to previous natural disasters.

He said USAID also is transitioning to provide longer term support, including finding more permanent shelters, removing debris and placing children into new schools.

"At the initial phase of a crisis, people tend to have their hair on fire," he said. "We are past that phase."

## Israel's Arabs poised to gain new voice after tight election

**JERUSALEM (AP)**—Israel's Arab coalition appears poised to emerge as the main opposition bloc following Tuesday's election, a historic first that would grant a new platform to a long-marginalized minority.

With more than 90% of votes counted Wednesday, the Joint List was expected to win about a dozen seats in the 120-member assembly, coming third after the Blue and White party of former military chief Benny Gantz and the right-wing Likud party of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In absolute terms, the Arab bloc appears to have repeated its performance in 2015, when it won 13 seats.

But this time around, due to the shifting constellation of Israeli politics, it would be well-placed to lead the opposition if a national unity government of the two largest parties is formed, as seems likely.

That would put a representative of Israel's Arab citizens closer to the center of power than ever before and strengthen

their ability to influence the national agenda.

### A TARGET OF INCITEMENT

Israel's Arab minority makes up about 20% of the population of 9 million, and is descended from Palestinians who stayed in Israel after it was established as a state in 1948. They officially enjoy full citizenship, including the right to vote, but they lived under martial law until 1966 and still suffer widespread discrimination.

Decades of marginalization have bred voter apathy, and in April's elections more than half the Arab electorate stayed home. This time around, Arab leaders joined forces and mobilized turnout, vowing to topple Netanyahu and push for improvements in public services.

Arab citizens have close family, cultural and historical ties to Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, and largely identify with the Palestinian cause. That has led many Israelis to view them as

a fifth column and a security threat. Netanyahu has repeatedly branded them as terrorists and traitors in a bid to energize his right-wing base, in remarks widely condemned as racist incitement.

In the closing hours of the 2015 elections, Netanyahu warned that Arabs were voting in "droves." This time around, he pushed for the placement of cameras at polling stations in Arab districts based on unfounded claims of widespread fraud, saying Arabs were trying to "steal" the election. Facebook suspended an automated chat function on his account for 24 hours last week after it published a post saying, "Arabs want to annihilate all of us."

Netanyahu appeared to double down in his election-night speech, saying no Israeli government could include "anti-Zionist Arab parties" that "reject the very existence of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state" and "praise bloodthirsty terrorists who murder our soldiers, citizens and children."



# Science & Technology

## Researchers: AI surveillance is expanding worldwide

A growing number of countries are following China's lead in deploying artificial intelligence to track citizens, according to a research group's report published Tuesday.

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace says at least 75 countries are actively using AI tools such as facial recognition for surveillance.

The index of countries

where some form of AI surveillance is used includes liberal democracies such as the United States and France as well as more autocratic regimes.

Relying on a survey of public records and media reports, the report says Chinese tech companies led by Huawei and Hikvision are supplying much of the AI surveillance technology to countries around the world. Other companies such as Japan's NEC and U.S.-based IBM, Palantir and Cisco are also major international providers of AI surveillance tools.

Hikvision declined comment Tuesday. The other companies mentioned in the report didn't immediately return requests for comment.

The report encompasses a broad range of AI tools that have some public safety component. The group's index doesn't distinguish

between legitimate public safety tools and unlawful or harmful uses such as spying on political opponents.

"I hope citizens will ask tougher questions about how this type of technology is used and what type of impacts it will have," said the report's author, Steven Feldstein, a Carnegie Endowment fellow and associate professor at Boise State University.

Many of the projects cited in Feldstein's report are "smart city" systems in which a municipal government installs an array of sensors, cameras and other internet-connected devices to gather information and communicate with one another. Huawei is a lead provider of such platforms, which

can be used to manage traffic or save energy, but which are increasingly also used for public surveillance and security, Feldstein said.

Feldstein said he was surprised by how many democratic governments in Europe and elsewhere are racing ahead to install AI surveillance such as facial recognition, automated border controls and algorithmic tools to predict when crimes might occur. The index shows that just over half of the world's advanced democracies deploy AI surveillance systems either at the national or local level.

"I thought it would be most centered in the Gulf States or countries in China's orbit," Feldstein said. (AP)

## Apple awards \$250 million to supplier of glass for iPhones

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP)—Apple on Tuesday deepened its ties with a Kentucky manufacturing plant by awarding \$250 million to support Corning Inc.'s continued work to develop glass for iPhones and other devices.

The award builds on the \$200 million that Corning received from Apple's Advanced Manufacturing Fund in 2017, the tech giant said. The combined investments support Corning's research and development that will be crucial for next-generation consumer devices, Apple said.

Scratch-resistant glass for every generation of iPhone has been made at Corning's plant in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Corning also supplies glass for iPads and Apple Watches.

"Apple and Corning's rich history dates back more than a decade and our partnership revolutionized glass and trans-

formed the technology industry with the first iPhone," Jeff Williams, Apple's chief operating officer, said in a release.

"This award underscores Apple and Corning's shared belief in the vital role that ingenuity plays in creating industry-leading products, and the pride that both companies take in applying American innovation and advanced manufacturing to solve some of the world's toughest technology challenges," he added.

Wendell P. Weeks, Corning's chairman, chief executive officer and president, said the additional investment will allow the Corning, New York-based company to develop "groundbreaking new glass innovations" while expanding its manufacturing capabilities.

"Most importantly, our ongoing collaboration allows us to create vital new capabilities for end users and continue

pushing the boundaries of what is possible well into the future," he said.

Corning employs about 400 people at its technology development and manufacturing operations in Harrodsburg. It's been part of the central Kentucky community for more than 65 years. The company said the new Apple award won't result in an immediate increase in jobs at the Kentucky operation but enables "future opportunities that may lead to growth." The Harrodsburg plant is Corning's longest-running U.S.-based manufacturing facility.

Apple and Corning first teamed up more than a decade ago when former Apple CEO Steve Jobs ordered the plastic screen on the company's first iPhone to be replaced with a scratch-resistant glass just a few months before the product was to launch.

### Science Matters

## How animals' eating evolved

What an animal eats is a fundamental aspect of its biology, but surprisingly, the evolution of diet had not been studied across the animal kingdom until now.

**New study of more than 1 million animal species going back 800 million years, to the first animals**

### ANIMALS' DIETS

**Carnivores**  
(eat other animals, fungi or single-celled protists)

**63% of species**

NOTE: Graph shows number of species; counting the number of individuals, herbivores are the most numerous at any time

**Herbivores**  
(eat plants, algae or cyanobacteria)

**32% of species**

**Omnivores**  
including humans (eat both plants and animals)

**3% of species**

### Animals' ancient diet

Animals' closest living relatives are tiny single-celled creatures called **choanoflagellates**

A choanoflagellate

**They float** in sea and freshwater, pulling bacteria and detritus into their basket-like food-absorbing end with a whiplike "flagellum"

**Animals' original, common ancestor** was probably similar, a protist that ate bacteria and other protists

### Becoming specialists

**There are few omnivores;** animals have tended to evolve with mouths and digestion specialized for eating either plants or animals

### Animals turned to eating plants

**Plants became more diverse,** and nutritious, with the emergence of flowers and fruits about 130 million years ago, during the early Age of Dinosaurs

**Today's insects** are the most diverse animals (about 1.5 million known species), with many of those species dating back to the early days of flowering plants



Vultures and condors are **carnivores** that have specialized as scavengers



Source: Cristian Román-Palacios, Joshua Scholl and John Wiens of University of Arizona; Evolution Letters journal  
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

## Paris tests new bubble-shaped water taxi

PARIS (AP)—Paris is testing out a new form of travel: an eco-friendly bubble-shaped taxi that zips along the water up and down the Seine River.

Organizers are holding test runs this week on one white, oval-shaped electric hydrofoil boat that resemble tiny space shuttles gliding past Paris monuments.

The boats can fit four passengers, and if they get ap-

proved, can be ordered on an app like land taxis, shared bikes or other forms of transport.

Its designers hope to run the so-called Seabubbles commercially in Paris and other cities starting next year.

Anders Bringdal, SeaBubbles CEO, told The Associated Press that "the most important for us is no noise, no waves, no pollution. And bring them into cities that are congested."

Bringdal said the water taxi will "not only be fun" but also makes economic sense.

"If you compare a similar size boat with an engine, you are going to run 30, 40, 50 euros an hour in fuel cost when this one costs you 3 dollars or 3 euros," he said.

Proponents see the vehicle as a new model for the fast-changing landscape of urban mobility.

## Uber taxi: Flight of fancy for now, but 'a future fun possibility'

By RYAN ORI  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO—Uber Technologies is headed to the top of Chicago's Old Post Office—and, someday, maybe even higher.

The company's top executives were in town Monday to discuss the company's 463,000-square-foot lease in the massive building along the Chicago River, where the Uber Freight shipping business will be headquartered.

San Francisco-based Uber's deal, the largest office lease signed in Chicago so far this year, is for the ninth and 10th floors, the top two levels of the 2.8 million-square-foot behemoth at 433 W. Van Buren St.

The 10-year lease also includes private space on the building's roof, a space so large that helicopters easily land on it. That leaves open some futuristic possibilities for a company already known as a disruptor.

The roof is big enough to accommodate George Jetson-style aircraft being developed by Uber Elevate, the company's air transportation arm.

"The roof can hold air taxis," Lior Ron, the head of Uber Freight, said after a

news conference Monday in the renovated lobby of the long-vacant post office.

"There's no immediate plan right now but, you know, it's a future fun possibility that I think this space gives us the opportunity to do," Ron said.

Such a use in The Old Post Office is a long shot.

Before operating in any city, Uber Elevate still must design the new aircraft and "skyports," as well as overcome regulatory hurdles. The concept is viewed as an option for transportation between suburbs and cities, and eventually within cities.

Uber Elevate wants to operate its new air taxis in Dallas, Los Angeles and Melbourne by 2023. It already has begun offering traditional private helicopter rides in New York, from Lower Manhattan to John F. Kennedy International Airport.

In Chicago, Uber's use of the rooftop will remain—for now, at least—more traditional.

Uber's lease includes an 11,000-square-foot portion of one of the four thinner pylons that extend above the rest of the structure at each corner of the building, according to Cailin Rogers, a spokeswoman for Telos Group, which

oversees office leasing in the building. Uber will have room to build its own roof deck connected to the private event space within the pylon.

Uber Freight plans to invite shippers and customers to events in the rooftop space, Ron said. There also will be a 3.5-acre rooftop park available to all office tenants in the building.

The Old Post Office is in the late stages of an \$800 million-plus redevelopment by 601W Cos. The first tenants will move in this fall, and Uber is expected to move there next year.

Other large tenants in the building include Walgreens, PepsiCo and Ferrara Candy.

The New York-based developer is represented in leasing by Telos Group brokers Steve Smith, Dan Heckman and Jamey Dix. Uber was represented by CBRE brokers Paul Reaumont and Ian Murphy.

Uber will consolidate two downtown offices, with the majority of the new space expected to be used by continued expansion of Uber Freight. Ron said The Old Post Office was chosen primarily for its ultrawide floors, which allow engineers to collaborate with other teams, and its proximity to public transportation.



# Off The Wall

## Nevada desert towns prep for possible 'Storm Area 51' influx

**LAS VEGAS (AP)**—Visitors descending on the remote Nevada desert for "Storm Area 51" are from Earth, not outer space.

No one knows what to expect, but the two tiny towns of Rachel and Hiko near the once-secret military research site are preparing for an influx of people over the next few days.

"It's happening. We already have people from all over the world," Little A'Le'Inn proprietor Connie West said Wednesday from her bustling cafe and motel, where volunteers have arrived from Poland, Scotland, Australia, Florida, Idaho and Oklahoma.

Neighbors, elected officials and event organizers said the craze sparked by an internet joke inviting people to "see them aliens" might become a cultural marker, a monumental dud or something in between.

Area 51's secrecy has long fueled fascination about extra-

terrestrial life, UFOs and conspiracy theories, giving rise to the events this week and prompting military warnings not to approach the protected site.

"This phenomenon is really a perfect blend of interest in aliens and the supernatural, government conspiracies, and the desire to know what we don't know," said Michael Ian Borer, a University of Nevada, Las Vegas, sociologist who researches pop culture and paranormal activity.

The result, Borer said, was "hope and fear" for events that include the "Area 51 Basecamp," featuring music, speakers and movies, and two festivals competing for the name "Alienstock" starting Thursday.

Some neighbors and officials in two counties near Area 51 are nervous. The area of scenic mountains and rugged desert is home to a combined 50,000 people and compares



AP  
People enter and exit the Alien Research Center in Hiko, Nev.

"No Trespassing" signs on his 30-acre property. He's also organized a radio-equipped night watch of neighbors, fearing there won't be enough water, food, trash bins or toilets for visitors.

"Those that know what to expect camping in the desert are going to have a good time," Arnu said. "Those who are looking for a big party are going to be disappointed."

He predicts people showing up in the desert in shorts and flip-flops.

"That doesn't protect you against critters, snakes and scorpions," Arnu said. "It will get cold at night. They're not going to find what they're looking for, and they are going to get angry."

in size with New England.

Elected officials signed emergency declarations after millions of people responded to the Facebook post this summer.

"We are preparing for the worst," said Joerg Arnu, a Ra-

chel resident who could see from his home a makeshift stage and cluster of portable toilets in a dusty area recently

scraped of brush surrounding West's little motel and cafe.

Arnu said he installed outdoor floodlights, fencing and

## 9-pound, 11-ounce Tennessee baby is born on 9/11 at 9:11

**GERMANTOWN, Tenn.** (AP)—A Mississippi couple welcomed a 9-pound, 11-ounce baby into the world on 9/11, at 9:11 p.m.

The Commercial Appeal reports Christina Malone-Brown was born by cesarean section at a hospital in Ger-

mantown, Tennessee.

Christina's father, Justin Brown, says bystanders joked his family should play the lottery. He says the doctor kept saying "Oh my goodness, I've got a 9/11, 9/11, 9/11."

A photo of the baby shows her asleep in a hospital bed

for infants, wires connected to her torso and a blue elastic band wrapped around her head.

Her mother, Cametrione Malone-Brown, says her baby girl brought a spot of light to a day darkened by memories of the 2001 terror attacks.

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### Deputies: Couple had sex in patrol car after arrest

**FERNANDINA BEACH, Fla.** (AP)—Authorities say a man and a woman who were stopped for drunken bicycling in a Florida beach town had sex in a deputy's patrol car before one of them fled naked. Nassau County Sheriff's Office deputies last Friday arrested Aaron Thomas and Megan Mondanaro. Both face charges of resisting arrest with violence, committing a lascivious act and exposing sexual organs. The Florida Times-Union reports a deputy was patrolling Fernandina Beach when he spotted the bicyclists almost get hit by a car. An arrest report says that after they were put into the squad car to await being taken to jail, they took off their clothes and started having sex. A naked Thomas was removed from the cruiser but fled. He was later captured. Court records showed no attorneys for them.

#### Woman burning love letters sparks Nebraska apartment fire

**LINCOLN, Neb.** (AP)—It seems this love was too hot to handle. Police in Lincoln say a 19-year-old woman sparked an apartment fire Monday by burning love letters from her ex in her bedroom. Police say the woman used a butane torch to burn the letters and left some of them on the floor. She then went to another room to take a nap. Police say she awoke a short time later to find the carpet on fire. Firefighters were able to extin-

guish the fire within minutes. Officials say the fire caused an estimated \$4,000 in damage to the building. No one was injured. The woman was cited for negligent burning.

#### Pig-headed pig's escapades cause owner to face citations

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** (AP)—This little piggy should have stayed home. The State reports that for the fourth time, Leroy—a Vietnamese pot-bellied pig—wandered over to Brennan Elementary School in Columbia, South Carolina, leading officials to slap McGregor Wallace with citations for owning a pig within city limits and having a fugitive pet. Wallace is scheduled for a court appearance in October. Wallace says Leroy is his emotional support animal meant to help him deal with PTSD from domestic trauma. Wallace says he got Leroy several months ago to replace a standard pig that grew too big. He says Leroy is clever and knows how to open the home's gate when Wallace isn't home. The pig also can open the refrigerator. The 7-month-old swine is now at Columbia's animal shelter.

#### Suspended judge pleads in underwear-theft case

**CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y.** (AP)—A suspended New York judge has pleaded guilty to attempted burglary for trying to sneak into a neighbor's home to steal her underwear. Robert Cicale (sih-KAL'-ee) pleaded guilty Friday in Suffolk County court. Prosecutors say the 50-year-old Cicale had

several pairs of worn women's underwear stuffed into his jacket and raincoat when he was arrested on March 29, 2018, after leaving the neighbor's home. They say he admitted that he had entered the home on several occasions and stolen panties from a hamper. Cicale was removed from the bench after his arrest. He is expected to be sentenced Nov. 15 to five years of probation with sex offender status. Cicale's attorney, Michael J. Brown, tells Newsday that Cicale is a changed man. Brown says Cicale has dealt with "his mental illness issues."

#### Churchill home: 2nd suspect arrested in golden toilet theft

**LONDON** (AP)—Police have arrested a second suspect in the unusual case involving the theft of a golden toilet from Winston Churchill's birthplace. Thames Valley Police said Tuesday that a 36-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to burgle and has been released pending investigation. The two suspects have not been charged or identified. The police investigation over the Saturday morning theft at Blenheim Palace is ongoing. The toilet is a work of art valued at 1 million pounds (\$1.25 million). The golden toilet is the work of Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan that was part of an art installation that had been installed a few days before the theft. The artist intended the golden toilet to be a pointed satire about excessive wealth.

## FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

*In Loving Memory of*

†**Vicente  
"Ben"**

**Muna Sablan**

*October 30, 1965 – September 30, 2018*

We, the family humbly invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we remember our Dearly Beloved's passing unto eternal.

Daily masses of intention will be offered at 6:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning on Sunday, September 22nd through Monday, September 30th. On the final day of mass, the family is inviting everyone for breakfast at Joeten Daidai Social Hall.

Your presence, thoughts, and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Dankulo na Si Yu'us Maase,  
Thank you, Ghilisow,  
and Maraming Salamat Po!

*Zita, Vanessa, and Penelope  
Sablan*





## Life & Style

# Creativity without the pressure at 'paint and sip' studios

By MOLLY SPRAYREGEN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

They've become a global sensation—"paint and sip" studios where adults can spend evenings out learning to make art in a relaxed, BYOB setting. Thousands of franchises now exist to help us all unleash our inner creative.

One of the places where it all began was a little studio outside Birmingham, Alabama. In 2002, at age 28, Wendy Lovoy quit her corporate job to pursue a career as a painter. She began teaching adult and kids' classes. The adults, she noticed, were taking far too long to finish their paintings. They were nervous about making them perfect. They couldn't get out of their own heads. When Lovoy encouraged them to relax and move more quickly, their work always turned out better.

So she began holding two-hour sessions during which she would guide adult students to create an entire painting from start to finish. As it turned out, they loved it. The paintings were coming out great, and classes were filling up. Students began bringing mimosas. The atmosphere was relaxed and pressure-free.

So in 2003, her company, Sips 'N Strokes, was born.



Sips 'N Strokes pioneered the model of BYOB recreational painting classes that teach students to reproduce a work of art step-by-step.

"My vision was to inspire the world to create," says Lovoy.

She hoped to transform the painting process from something intimidating and seemingly out of reach to something approachable and fun.

The business grew slowly at first, going from one class a month to two, and then, suddenly, it was seven days a week. By 2007, Lovoy was squishing 100 people per night into her studio. By 2009, when she franchised Sips 'N Strokes, similar businesses, like Painting With a Twist and Pinot's Palette, had begun springing up around the country.

"It became an industry that

the customer base really gravitated to," says Joe Lewis, CEO of the Mandeville, Louisiana-based Painting With a Twist. "With the increase in the DIY industry, it has really caught on and become popular."

Because the investment needed to start a paint and sip franchise is relatively low,

Lewis says, the industry has grown quickly. Painting With a Twist recently acquired a competitor, Chicago-based Bottle and Bottega, and the merged companies have a total of 300 locations around the country.

Lovoy is amazed at how popular paint-and-sip places

This 2019 photo provided by Painting with a Twist shows a group taking part in a Painting with a Twist event in Mandeville, La. In recent years, the interactive painting industry has become a global sensation. Around the world, adults can spend their nights out learning to paint in a relaxed, BYOB setting. Thousands of franchises exist to help us all unleash our inner creative.

PAINTING WITH A TWIST VIA AP

have become since she opened her studio.

"When you're 28 years old and you see something that was your passion blow up to something so big, it's phenomenal," says the now-43-year-old.

While many people come to the classes to relax with a glass of wine, Lovoy believes that a huge piece of the success of the Sips 'N Strokes model is the way it forces students to speed up their painting.

"When you give an adult time, we overanalyze and overthink everything," she says. "When you give them that time restraint, they can create anything. They just have to get outside of themselves, and you do that when you move fast. You shut down that anal side of your brain and your creative side opens up."

## No Britney Spears, no decisions made at closed court hearing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A hearing Wednesday on the future of the court conservatorship that for 11 years has controlled the money and affairs of Britney Spears ended with no decisions made and no appearance from the pop star.

The hearing was cleared of the public and media. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Brenda J. Penny issued no rulings during or after the proceedings, and Spears was not listed among those in attendance.

The hearing opened with a courtroom full of media members and a few Spears fans, but all were required to leave when Penny agreed with attorneys who requested that the hearing and its transcripts should be sealed because of what would be revealed about Spears' medical, mental and financial issues, along with details about her two young sons.

In May, the 37-year-old Spears made a rare appearance in the same courtroom for another closed conser-

vatorship hearing. She had asked to speak to the court and was brought in through a back door once the courtroom was cleared.

Her request raised the possibility that she could be seeking changes in the arrangement that she has largely quietly accepted for years.

Penny asked for an analyst to review Spears' situation after that hearing, and had been expected to get at least some of the results Wednesday. It's not clear whether she did, but in court documents she said the status hearing would resume in January.

Spears' father, Jamie Spears, and mother, Lynne Spears, were both in court, along with a half-dozen attorneys with various roles in the conservatorship.

Jamie Spears temporarily stepped down in his role as conservator over his daughter's personal affairs earlier this month, citing poor health, but he maintained his financial control over her.

Prosecutors in neighboring

Ventura County announced Tuesday that they would not be filing criminal charges against the 67-year-old Jamie Spears after deputies investigated an allegation of child abuse. The district attorney's office would not say who the child in the report was or give any other details on the investigation. Jamie Spears' attorney did not respond to a request for comment.

Jodi Montgomery, who has long helped manage Britney Spears' personal affairs, is now playing the role her father relinquished, and was also in court Wednesday.

Lynne Spears has not been involved in the conservatorship but has recently asked for greater access to information from its proceedings and filings.

Jamie Spears has several grandchildren, including Britney Spears' two sons, who are 14 and 13.

Her ex-husband Kevin Federline has custody of the boys, but she has frequent visits with them.

## Amazon Prime Video to stream Rihanna's lingerie show

NEW YORK (AP)—Rihanna believes women of all shapes, colors and sizes should be celebrated, and that spirit of inclusion has made her lingerie and beauty lines massive successes.

"Women just need a little bit of validation," the superstar explained to The Associated Press ahead of her Savage X Fenty fashion show last week.

"You are beautiful. Your body's beautiful. Your body's sexy and you deserve to feel that way," she added.

Her mission will be showcased Friday as Amazon Prime Video streams her New York Fashion Week extravaganza for Savage X Fenty in more than 200 countries and territories. The event's army of models included women of all sizes in a range of ethnicities and skin tones.

"We need to make stuff that's real and looks like the world," rapper Rapsody said of how Rihanna is changing the fashion and beauty game. "The world comes in so many

shapes and different colors. Who cares about what people think the standard of beauty is, and lightness. She's like, 'Nah, we need dark tones. We need all tones ... albinos and freckles.' She's really looking at everybody, and that's what's dope about Rihanna."

The show, at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New



Rihanna

York, was drenched in dreamy color—yellow, purple, blue and green—evoking an exotic locale with four tiers of large arched windows, stairs and a shallow round pool.

And who best to kick things off than the woman herself? Rihanna opened the Sept. 10 show dressed in a sexy lace bodysuit, a black bra top and a black velvet miniskirt. She gyrated, but didn't sing, from a short platform surrounded by fellow female dancers in black bodysuits, only she did it in spiky heels and they in black sneakers.

"She's the black Marilyn Monroe," Fat Joe said of Rihanna. "She's iconic just standing there."

There were rumors she would debut new music. She didn't, but Halsey did when she sang her new single, "Graveyard," live for the first time. Migos, Big Sean, A\$AP Ferg, Fat Joe, DJ Khaled and other hip-hop talent also performed, including Grammy-nominated artist Tierra Whack.

Among the show's performers—and models—were 21 Savage and Normani. Cara Delevingne, who appears in Amazon's "Carnival Row," strutted on stage in a bodysuit of lime green.

"This is a feast," Delevingne said of the show. "I wish more fashion shows were like this."

The inclusion Rihanna offers, both in lingerie and her makeup line, Fenty Beauty, remains rare. And she does it at reasonable price points. But she says it's more than just a business strategy.

"I never think about, 'Well, I should do this because nobody else is doing this.' I think a lot of people fall into a trap or in trouble with that, because it's not sincere. It's not genuine. Everything I've done has been sincere and genuine from my heart," Rihanna said.



By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—She's done a lot with the place.

Like anyone who has ever spruced up their home, Melania Trump will have a few new touches to showcase Friday when guests visit the White House for only the second state dinner of the Trump presidency.

There's refreshed wall fabric in the Red Room, repurposed draperies in the Green Room and restored furniture in the Blue Room. And those are just some of the home improvement projects the first lady has overseen to keep the well-trod public rooms at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. looking their museum-quality best.

Some of the projects were long overdue.

Sunlight streaming into the Red Room had left some of the wall fabric "so faded it was almost pink," said Stewart McLaurin, president of the White House Historical Association, which helps finance upkeep of some rooms in the 132-room mansion. First lady Jacqueline Kennedy founded the private, nonprofit organization in 1961.

"Those rooms should always look their very best and it was just very faded and really, really needed to be done," McLaurin said.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and his wife, Jenny, and guests for Friday's three-course state dinner in their honor should have an opportunity to check out the spiffed-up public rooms.

In her role as caretaker, the first lady—whoever she is—meets regularly with the chief usher, the head curator and other White House staff to figure out what improvements should top the to-do list.

Mrs. Trump, who keeps a relatively low profile as first lady, has put her interest in history to use overseeing the restoration projects.

# White House upgrade: First lady's done a lot with the place



This Sept. 17, 2019, photo shows refreshed wall fabric in the Red Room of the White House in Washington. Sunlight streaming into the Red Room had left wall fabric "so faded it was almost pink," said Stewart McLaurin, president of the White House Historical Association.

"Our family is grateful to live in this true symbol of our nation's history, but we are even more honored to play a part in restoring and enhancing our country's sacred landmark," she said at a May reception.

The first lady designed a new rug for the Diplomatic Reception Room, the main entrance off the South Lawn, after foot traffic wore a path across the old one, McLaurin said. The replacement has a border showing the flowers of the 50 states, a touch added by the first lady.

The White House also refreshed draperies in the Green

Room by switching material from the backside to the front, eliminating the need—and cost—of replacing the curtains entirely, McLaurin said. Only the fringe had to be replaced.

Last year, Mrs. Trump returned to the Blue Room several restored pieces from a historic 53-piece furniture set known as the Bellangé suite.

Decor upgrades are a bit more complicated at the White House than for typical homeowners.

Renovation ideas are shared with the Kennedy-created Committee for the Preservation of the White House, which provides advice on pre-

serving the public rooms on the Ground and State floors.

The committee requests funding from the historical association, whose board typically authorizes spending \$1 million to \$1.5 million on such projects each year.

The White House serves several purposes: It's an office for the president and his staff, a home for his family and a living museum. Approximately half a million tourists visit every year, apart from dignitaries and others who attend receptions and other events.

"The White House does get a lot of wear and tear,"

McLaurin said.

The Bellange suite furnishings were brought to the White House in 1817 by President James Monroe, formerly the U.S. ambassador to France.

But in 1860, nearly all the pieces were sold at an auction.

One hundred years later, Jacqueline Kennedy arrived and was appalled to discover the White House was furnished with reproductions from a New York department store, McLaurin said. She created the historical association, the advisory committee and a curator to help the White House collect and exhibit only

the best, McLaurin said.

The White House has managed to reacquire 10 pieces from the original suite, made in Paris by Pierre-Antoine Bellangé. The rest of the collection is "lost to history," McLaurin said.

The Bellangé restoration project began during Michelle Obama's time as first lady and was completed last year, costing the historical association more than \$450,000 since 2013.

The wood, brass and lighting inside an elevator that takes the president to and from the private living quarters has also been refinished.

Next up? New upholstery on chairs and benches in the high-traffic Diplomatic Reception Room.

Mrs. Trump also renovated a bowling alley in the White House residence that dates to the Nixon administration and was last renovated in 1994 under President Bill Clinton. The Bowling Proprietors' Association of America paid for the renovation.

During the Obama years, the red carpet in the Cross Hall, or hallway, on the State Floor was replaced.

Mrs. Obama also oversaw projects with an eye on leaving her family's mark on the White House, as is the case with every president and first lady. She replaced the rug, draperies and high-back chairs around the table in the State Dining Room.

Mrs. Obama also updated the Old Family Dining Room, a smaller room adjacent to the State Dining Room, by swapping its sunny yellow walls and drapery and light-toned rug for gray walls, contrasting red draperies and a rug with a contemporary design.

Four works of American abstract art also were added to the Old Family Dining Room, including a work that made Alma Thomas the first African-American female artist featured in the White House collection.

## Angry outburst spoil group's enjoyment of spirited debates

**DEAR ABBY:** I frequently socialize with friends who like to participate in debates. We share different opinions on topics such as politics, geopolitical events, etc. Sometimes we agree; sometimes we don't.

The problem is "Bob." When others don't see things the way he does, he throws a fit. Once, it got so bad that one of my friends got up and left. Another time, while I was expressing my political view to the group, Bob made faces, rolled his eyes and attacked me with ridicule. I got very annoyed.

Bob **DEMANDS** that we listen to what HE has to say, but refuses to listen to others. He's fine as long as you agree with him. But in this current climate, I'm expecting more eruptions. Abby, what do I do when the next fit erupts?

CAUGHT IN THE STORM

**DEAR CAUGHT:** The next time a "fit" erupts, call Bob on it and point out that what he's doing is disrespectful. If he doesn't stop, do as your other friend did. Get up and leave. Perhaps when Bob finds himself surrounded by an ever-shrinking audience, he will stop his overbearing performance. And if he doesn't, at least you won't have to suffer.

**DEAR ABBY:** We recently moved into a condo community of about a hundred units. A few weeks ago, a sign was anony-

mously posted on a car parked in a neighbor's driveway complaining about the "smell" and "mess" in the car. I removed the sign only to find it replaced the next day. This has happened several times since.

I know nothing about this resident except that his car has not moved from the spot in the driveway. I am appalled by someone's attempt to shame our neighbor. I plan to bring it up at our next association meeting, but is there anything else I can do?

DISAPPOINTED IN THE EAST

**DEAR DISAPPOINTED:** There could be reasons why the car in the driveway wasn't moved—among them illness or an absent homeowner. By all means discuss this at the next homeowners' meeting. And when you bring up the subject, suggest to the board that security cameras be installed for the safety of the residents and their property.

**DEAR ABBY:** When my husband and I go out in public, he doesn't introduce me to people. I have told him more than once how it makes me feel. He introduces his sister or our children if they are close by. Because of this, I shrink away or speak very little when he talks to others. I also avoid attending social situations with him.

I don't want to break our family up, but I feel like "nothing"

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*



around him. My husband seems happy with me at home. We don't go out to dinner, but we do have some good friends. I'm not a trophy wife, but I think I'm a good catch. What can I do?

WIFE OF SUPERFICIAL HUSBAND

**DEAR WIFE:** What you can do when your husband "forgets" to introduce you is smile, speak up and say, "Hi, I'm 'Janie,' his wife." And when you are in private, remind him that his failure to introduce you is rude, and you find it insulting.

*Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*



Pastimes

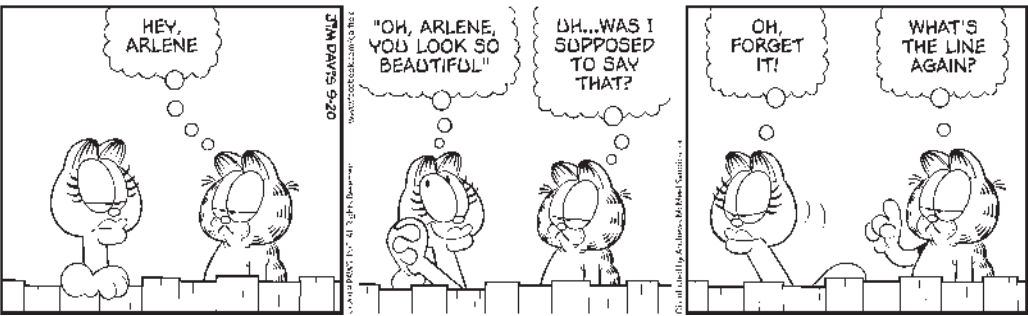
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



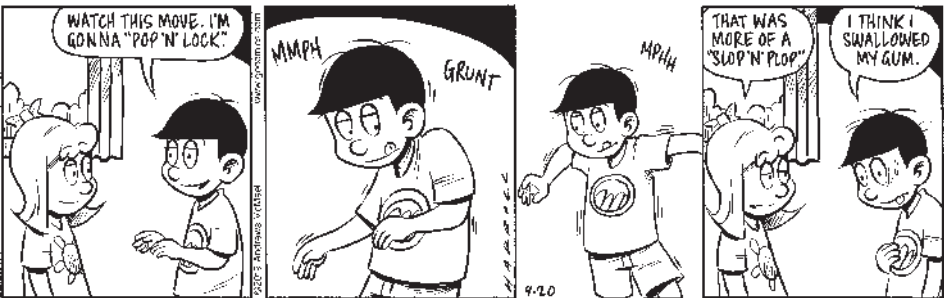
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



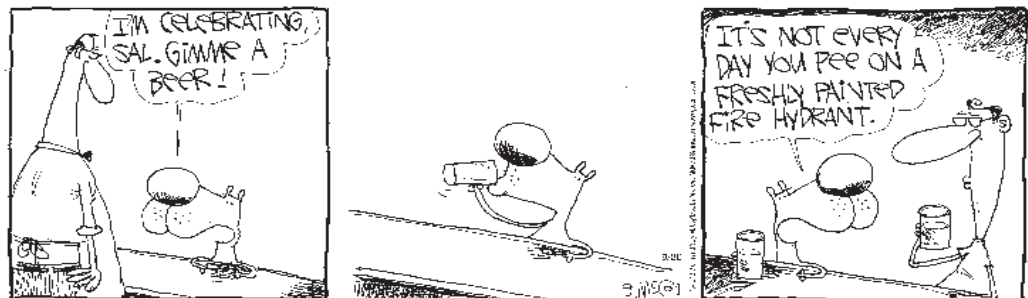
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Moon-shine vessel  
4 "The A-Team" actor  
7 Plane parts  
12 One-time link  
13 Suffix with cash  
14 Sheep-ish?  
15 Carried out  
16 Goopy pastry  
18 Green prefix  
19 Big brass  
20 Fill up  
22 Seminary subj.  
23 Any time now  
27 Director Howard  
29 Charity race, maybe  
31 Fake name  
34 Madame Curie  
35 Nissan, once  
37 Tree fluid

**DOWN**

1 Green gems  
2 City near Syracuse  
3 Gal of "Wonder Woman"  
4 Fine spray  
5 Come back  
6 Navajo or Hopi  
7 Stir-fry pans  
8 Wall climber  
9 Pen tip  
10 Wildebeest  
11 Capitol Hill VIP  
17 Young cow  
21 Obliterate  
23 Ginger cookies  
24 Bobby of hockey  
25 Parisian "yes"  
26 SSW opposite  
28 Buckeyes' sch.  
30 Ms. Thurman  
31 Hubbub  
32 Science room  
33 "Am — blame?"  
36 Cathedral area  
37 Planet with rings  
40 Stiff  
42 Seeps  
43 Dundee residents  
44 Some Oklahoma natives  
45 Building wings  
46 "Diana" singer  
48 Bashful  
49 Sock part  
50 Pac. counterpart  
51 Vigor

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

Yesterday's answer 9-20

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Philip Phillips, 29; Kristen Johnston, 52; Gary Cole, 63; Sophia Loren, 85.

**Happy Birthday:** A change will motivate you to expand your interests, friendships and insight into new possibilities. Don't wait for things to happen; instigate what you want to unfold. Your happiness is based on doing what's right and best for you at the moment. Look, evaluate and develop a plan that will take you where you want to go. Your numbers are 7, 16, 21, 27, 36, 39, 44.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Express your feelings, offer suggestions and be willing to listen to the response you get. Working alongside others will bring far better results than opposing whatever doesn't align with your plans. Find a way to compromise. Romance is favored. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Stop procrastinating. Be the one to instigate what you want to happen. Take control; it's your life. It's up to you to write the script and initiate your plans. Don't expect others to be responsible for your needs. ★★★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Emotions will surface when dealing with children, lovers and situations that are lacking integrity. Choose your words wisely, and refrain from letting your temper take over. A calm, thoughtful response will help defuse tension and ease stress. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Don't leave responsibilities undone. If you say you are going to do something, do your

best to finish what you start. Your reputation is at risk if you are all talk and no action. Protect your name, possessions and health. ★★★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Don't feel you have to make a change because someone else does. Helping a cause that supports your community, environment or you personally will lead to information and individuals that will enrich your life. Romance is on the rise. ★★★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Plan to participate in something that sparks your interest. Coming in contact with people from different backgrounds will make you realize that how you move forward is up to you. A lifestyle change that eases stress looks inviting. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Speak up, but do so with diplomacy. It's better to offer incentives than to make demands. An open dialogue and friendly demeanor will set the stage for compromise and necessary adjustments that ensure the outcome is fair. Romance is encouraged. ★★★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Set your sights on what you want, and don't stop until you reach your destination. Having a goal in mind and a purpose for doing what you do will help you advance. Someone will offer insight and help; don't be reluctant to accept. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Focus on partnerships and what you can do for each other. Be aware of someone who tries to make it difficult for you to get ahead. Believe in what you can do. An open discussion will confirm your intuition. ★★★★★

**EUGENIA LAST**

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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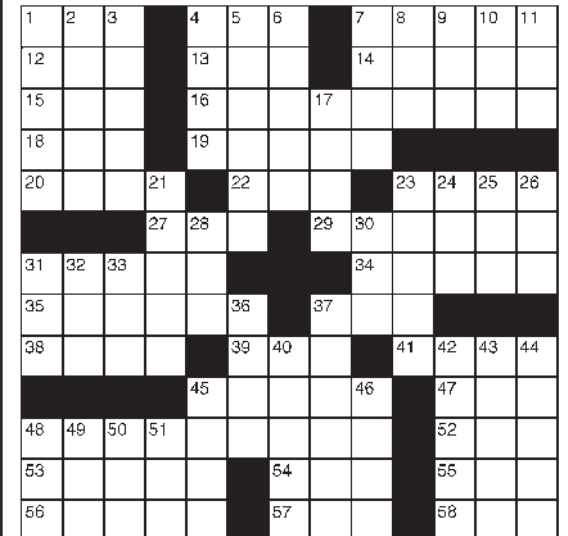
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Emotional interference can be expected if you share the way you feel or the personal plans you are making. Keep your private affairs a secret until you have everything in place. Don't believe everything you hear. ★★★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** A positive adjustment at home can be put in place. Your comfort and convenience should be your prime concerns. Sticking to a budget doesn't mean you cannot fulfill your dreams. Set priorities and proceed. Romance is in the stars. ★★★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Be careful what you wish for. Something you thought you wanted will not end up being as anticipated. Emotions will be difficult to control, and problems with a friend or relative can be expected. Focus on stabilizing meaningful relationships. ★★★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are curious, perceptive and dynamic. You are helpful and cooperative.

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**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**SUDOKU**

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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**WONDERWORD** By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CHANNELING YOUR FAITH Solution: 4 letters

ENOPTIMISMHOPEN  
TCOSRCDEVOTIONO  
ANNITOEUSDOOGNI  
CUEEGRMSUNGON  
IRPMDIEISYEVNIU  
NTARTNLNSRDIITM  
UHFIEEGEDRTAM  
MRTRISMPRTITTVO  
MEURSDUMELHUERO  
OSROENEMODEELEO  
CYTLAYOLPCEPNSU  
RMASSWAITLESBR  
EBELIEFRSTIOROA  
DONOISSAPIYOVC  
OLYGOLOEDIVINEE

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Belief, Commitment, Communicate, Communion, Courage, Credo, Creed, Dependence, Devotion, Divine, Dogma, Duty, Fidelity, Goods, Gospel, Hidden, Hope, Ideology, Letting Go, Love, Loyalty, Mass, Nurture, Observation, Optimism, Passion, Piousness, Prayer, Presumption, Promise, Religion, Sect, Strengthen, Sureness, Symbol, Truth, Virtue, Vision

Yesterday's Answer: Etiquette

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**(2) Heavy Equipment Mechanics** - \$9.05 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
Duties may include but not limited to: Maintaining, repairing and servicing a set of heavy equipment machines or vehicles (e.g., trucks, backhoes, excavators, bulldozers, cranes and compactors, completing inspections and preventive maintenance requirement, correcting vehicle deficiencies, making adjustments and alignments, and keeping records; ensure that all equipment is operating smoothly after repair and maintenance.

**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:**

- High School Graduate
- Minimum 2 years/24 months experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- Valid CNMI Driver's license
- Valid CNMI police clearance
- Current DOT physical examination

**All interested applicants can send resume to:** [info@itscorporation.net](mailto:info@itscorporation.net) or visit our office P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Amok, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6311 or (670) 285-4805 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website-[marianaslabor.net](http://marianaslabor.net)

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**DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
Smooth and finish surfaces of poured concrete, such as floors, walks, sidewalks, roads, or curbs using a variety of hand and power tools. Align forms for sidewalks, curbs, or gutters; patch voids; and use saws to cut expansion joints. Check the forms that hold the concrete to see that they are properly constructed. Set the forms that hold concrete to the desired pitch and depth, and align them. Spread, level, and smooth concrete, using rake, shovel, hand or power trowel, hand or power screed, and float. Monitor how the wind, heat, or cold affect the curing of the concrete throughout the entire process. Mold expansion joints and edges, using edging tools, jointers, and straightedges.

**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:**

- High school Graduate.
- At least 03 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

**All interested applicants can submit resume at:** [anniep@gppcinc.com](mailto:anniep@gppcinc.com) or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site –[marianaslabor.net](http://marianaslabor.net).

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**(03) Painter Helper** 10.83 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

**DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
Help painters, paperhangers, plasterers, or stucco masons by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties include using, supplying or holding materials or tools, and cleaning work area and equipment. Clean work areas and equipment. Perform support duties to assist painters, paperhangers, plasterers, or masons. Apply protective coverings, such as masking tape, to articles or areas that could be damaged or stained by power processes. Erect scaffolding. Fill cracks or breaks in surfaces of plaster articles or areas with putty or epoxy compounds.

**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:**

- High school Graduate;
- At least 03 months experience
- Knowledge in painting works.

**All interested applicants can submit resume at:** [anniep@gppcinc.com](mailto:anniep@gppcinc.com) or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site –[marianaslabor.net](http://marianaslabor.net).

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**GPPC, INC.  
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**(02) HVAC Specialist** 8.08 to 8.50 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
Install, service, or repair heating and air conditioning systems in residences or commercial establishments. Test pipe or tubing joints or connections for leaks, using pressure gauge or soap-and-water solution. Test electrical circuits or components for continuity, using electrical test equipment. Repair or replace defective equipment, components, or wiring. Discuss the heating or cooling system malfunctions with users to isolate problems or to verify that repairs corrected malfunctions. Repair or service heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to improve efficiency, such as by changing filters, cleaning ducts, or refilling non-toxic refrigerants.

**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Associate's Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience;
- Must have knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance.

**All interested applicants can submit resume at:** [anniep@gppcinc.com](mailto:anniep@gppcinc.com) or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site –[marianaslabor.net](http://marianaslabor.net).

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**(02) Quality Control Technician** - \$9.02 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

**DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
Weigh, measure, and check materials, supplies, and equipment for the purpose of keeping relevant records. Duties are primarily clerical by nature. Includes workers who collect and keep record of samples of products or materials. Document quantity, quality, type, weight, test result data, and value of materials or products to maintain shipping, receiving, and production records and files. Weigh or measure materials, equipment, or products to maintain relevant records, using volume meters, scales, rules, or calipers. Collect or prepare measurement, weight, or identification labels and attach them to products. Examine products or materials, parts, subassemblies, and packaging for damage, defects, or shortages, using specification sheets, gauges, and standards charts. Signal or instruct other workers to weigh, move, or check products.

**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:**

- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience;
- Must have knowledge in using measuring tools, such as scales and calipers

**All interested applicants can submit resume at:** [anniep@gppcinc.com](mailto:anniep@gppcinc.com) or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site –[marianaslabor.net](http://marianaslabor.net).

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**SIX (6) Automotive Body & Related Repairers** \$12.54 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

**DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
Repair and refinish automotive vehicle bodies and straighten vehicle frames. Fit and weld replacement parts into place using wrenches and welding equipment and grind down welds to smooth them using power grinders and other tools. Prime and paint repaired surfaces using paint spray guns and motorized sanders. Perform other related duties as assigned.

**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:**  
High school diploma is required. At least 1 year experience as Automotive Body & Related Repairer is required.

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**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**TWO (2) Civil Engineering Technician** \$14.18 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

**DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
Read and review project blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimensional drawings and design layouts for projects and to ensure conformance to specifications using Autocad. Prepare reports and document project activities and data. Inspect project site and evaluate contractor work to detect design malfunctions and ensure conformance to design specifications and applicable codes. Develop plans and estimate costs for installation of systems, utilization of facilities, or construction of structures. Perform other related duties as assigned.

**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:**  
Associate Degree in Engineering is required. At least 24 months experience is required

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**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**THREE (3) Construction Laborer** \$8.09 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

**DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
Perform tasks involving physical labor at construction sites. May operate hand and power tools of all types; air hammers, earth tampers, cement mixers, small mechanical hoists, surveying and measuring equipment and a variety of other equipment and instruments. May clean and prepare sites, dig trenches, set braces to support the sides of excavations, erect scaffolding and clean up rubble, debris and other waste materials. May assist other craft workers and perform related duties as assigned.

**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:**  
High school diploma is required. At least 12 months experience as Construction laborer is required

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**Disaster Case Manager – Temporary**

The Disaster Case Manager will provide disaster case management services to individuals and families impacted by Super Typhoon Yutu on the islands of Saipan and Tinian, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Disaster Case Manager is responsible for providing a wide variety of disaster recovery client services, including assessments, supportive services, information and referral, financial assistance, advocacy, and the development of long-term disaster recovery plans.

**Qualification**

- Bachelor's degree in the human service field of 4 years commensurate work experience in disaster services.
- Experience working disaster recovery or related case management.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively with a wide diversity of people from different ethnic backgrounds.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- Proven computer skills including Word, Excel and other appropriate applications.
- Must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

**DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:** Complete application form, copy of diploma, resume, current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid driver's license.

**For more information, job description and application can be obtained from Karidat Main Office at Old Sister Remedios Bldg.**

**NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.  
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2019 AT 4:00PM**

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**ONE (1) Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Driver** \$8.11 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

**DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
Drive a tractor-trailer combination or heavy truck. Required to unload truck. Check vehicles to ensure that mechanical, safety and emergency equipment is in good working order. Follow appropriate safety procedures for transporting goods. Inspect loads to ensure that cargo is secure. Secure cargo for transport using ropes, blocks, chain, binders or covers.

**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:**  
At least 1 year experience as Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Driver is required

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**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**THREE (3) Operating Engineer & Other Construction Equipment Operator** \$9.05 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

**DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
Operate various heavy equipment to move material, grade, excavate, backfill, land clearing or vibrating or breaking rock or concrete. Set up or inspect equipment prior to operation. Perform routine maintenance on equipment such as ensuring proper tire pressure, fill with water, coolant or oil to required levels, lubricate or make adjustments to machinery. Perform other related duties as assigned.

**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:**  
High school diploma is required. At least 12 months experience required.

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# Angels foil Yanks' bid to clinch AL East



**NEW YORK (AP)—**Relief pitcher Adam Ottavino sailed a 30-foot throw home on Albert Pujols' tie-breaking chopper, and the sloppy New York Yankees lost to the Los Angeles Angels 3-2 Wednesday night with a chance to clinch the AL East.

New York still would have locked down the division title with a Tampa Bay loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers later in the night. But with the Yankees waiting around in their clubhouse for a potential bubbly celebration, the Rays rallied for an 8-7 victory in 11 innings that ended nearly three hours after New York's game finished.

The Yankees would have been assured a playoff spot if Cleveland had lost, but the Indians beat Detroit 2-1 in 10 innings.

Yankees slugger Giancarlo Stanton stung the ball in his return from injury and CC Sabathia got an emotional send-off in his final regular-season start in the Bronx, yet New York dropped to 99-54 after entering the night tied with Houston for the majors' best record.

New York hasn't won the AL East since 2012, the third-longest drought for the club since divisions were formed in 1969.

Angels right-hander Luke Bard (2-2) struck out five over three perfect innings of relief. David Fletcher had three hits and Pujols added two hits, an RBI and a stolen base. Los Angeles left 13 on base.

Defensive whiz Andrelton Simmons dived to his backhand at shortstop to rob Luke Voit of a hit in the ninth, helping Hansel Robles complete his 22nd save.

Aaron Judge hit 24th homer during an injury-shortened season. Ottavino (6-5) took the loss.

## Rays 8, Dodgers 7, 11 innings

In Los Angeles, Austin Meadows homered leading off the 11th inning, sending Tampa Bay to a victory over the Dodgers that helped the Rays keep pace in the AL wild-card race and prevented the New York Yankees from clinching the AL East title.

Tampa Bay remained two games behind Oakland for the top wild card and a half-game ahead of Cleveland for the second spot.

Meadows slugged his 32nd homer off Josh Sborz (0-1), and Ji-Man Choi's sacrifice fly tacked on an insurance run after the Rays had rallied for two runs off closer Kenley Jansen in the ninth.

Tommy Pham had a career-high five hits for the Rays, who ended a two-game skid.

The teams combined to use 18 pitchers, two more than on Tuesday.

## Cardinals 5, Nationals 1

In St. Louis, Adam Wainwright out-pitched Max Scherzer, Dexter Fowler made a sensational catch and NL Central-leading Cardinals beat Washington.

Wainwright (13-9) limited the Nationals to an unearned run in seven innings. He gave up eight hits, struck out three and walked one.

Trailing by four, and with two on



AP  
New York Yankees' Aaron Judge (99) is thrown out at first base as Albert Pujols catches the throw during the eighth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2019, in New York. The Angels won, 3-2.

with one out in the eighth. The Nats' Asdrúbal Cabrera hit a drive off Andrew Miller that had the distance to leave the park, but Fowler jumped and reached far over the wall to make the grab.

Tommy Edman and Matt Wieters homered for St. Louis, which began the day with a two-game division lead over Chicago and Milwaukee.

## Astros 3, Rangers 2

In Houston, Gerrit Cole struck out 10 batters, including his 300th of the season, in eight strong innings, Yuli Gurriel and Jose Altuve homered and the Astros beat Texas to lock up a postseason berth.

Houston won its fifth straight and 100th game of the season, becoming one of six teams in major league history to win at least 100 games in three straight seasons.

The Astros (100-53) have the best record in the majors and can clinch the AL West as early as Friday with a win and loss by Oakland.

Cole (18-5) allowed two runs on six hits in earning his 14th straight win. He became the third Astros pitcher to reach 300 strikeouts in a season, joining J.R. Richard, who had 313 in 1979 and 303 in 1978, and Mike Scott, who struck out 306 in 1986.

## Padres 2, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Dinelson Lamet struck out a career-high 14 and Kirby Yates fanned pinch-hitter Ryan Braun with a runner on second base to close out San Diego over the play-off-contending Brewers.

The Brewers, who had won four in a row, began the day tied with the Cubs for the second NL wild-card spot.

Rookie Seth Mejias-Brean hit his first career home run as the Padres ended a six-game losing streak.

## Mets 7, Rockies 4

In Denver, Pete Alonso hit his major league-leading 49th homer and drew a bases-loaded walk during a four-run rally in the ninth inning that sent

New York over Colorado.

New York closed to three games behind the Cubs and Brewers for the second NL wild card when both teams lost later in the day. After winning two of three at Coors Field, the Mets have 10 games left this season starting with a three-game series in Cincinnati that opens Friday.

Jeff McNeil also went deep for the Mets, who set a franchise record with 225 home runs this season.

## Indians 2, Tigers 1, 10 innings

In Cleveland, Yasiel Puig hit an RBI single off the top of the right field wall with two outs in the 10th inning and the Indians kept up their playoff push, beating Detroit.

The Indians are four games behind the Twins in the AL Central and remained one-half game behind Tampa Bay for the second AL wild-card spot. Cleveland is two games behind wild-card leader Oakland.

Cleveland beat the Tigers for the 16th straight time this season. The Tigers, with the worst record in the majors at 45-106, matched their longest losing streak against an opponent. They also dropped 16 in a row to Minnesota in 2002-03.

## Phillies 4, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Bryce Harper hit a two-run homer, Zach Eflin pitched seven solid innings and Philadelphia won its second straight game over the Braves.

Atlanta has lost three in a row for the first time since July 16-18, but still leads the division by nine games. With nine games left in the regular season, the Braves can clinch their second consecutive NL East title with either two wins, two Washington losses or a combination of one each.

## White Sox 3, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, Held without a hit until the sixth inning, Minnesota managed only three in the loss to Chicago.

In the AL Central, Minnesota is four games ahead of Cleveland after the Indians beat Detroit 2-1 in 10 innings. The surprising Twins still have a magic number of seven to clinch their first division title since 2010.

Zack Collins homered and Yoán Moncada doubled twice for the White Sox. A trio of Chicago pitchers combined to take a no-hitter into the sixth.

## Mariners 4, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Kyle Lewis hit his fifth home run since debuting Sept. 10, Tom Murphy homered and Seattle beat the Pirates for its fourth straight win.

Dario Agrazal (4-5) allowed the four runs and six hits while striking out six in five innings.

Tommy Milone (4-9) relieved Justin Dunn to start the third inning for Seattle before allowing two hits and using just 51 pitches to get through five shutout innings. Matt Magill earned his fifth save.

## Athletics 1, Royals 0, 11 innings

In Oakland, Mark Canha hit an RBI double with two outs in the 11th inning and the Athletics edged Kansas City to hold their lead atop the AL wild-card race.

The Athletics, who have won seven of eight, began the day two games ahead of Tampa Bay for the top wild-card spot. Cleveland was a half-game behind the Rays.

Starters Homer Bailey of the A's and Danny Duffy of the Royals each pitched seven sharp innings.

## Diamondbacks 5, Marlins 4

In Phoenix, Mike Leake worked effectively into the seventh inning, Domingo Leyba had two RBIs and Arizona beat Miami.

Arizona is 4 ½ games behind the Cubs and Brewers in the race for the NL's second wild card.

The Diamondbacks bounced back

by jumping on Sandy Alcantara (5-14) early to keep their slim playoff chances alive with nine games to go.

Abraham Almonte hit his first career leadoff home run and Christian Walker added a solo shot for Arizona.

## Giants 11, Red Sox 3

In Boston, Stephen Vogt hit a two-run homer and San Francisco gave Bruce Bochy his 2,000th career victory as a manager in the majors.

Bochy became just the 11th manager to achieve 2,000 wins, reaching the milestone with just 10 games remaining for the Giants before their skipper retires at the end of the season.

He won 951 games while managing the San Diego Padres over 12 seasons and is 1,049-1,047 in 13 years with San Francisco, which won three World Series titles with Bochy at the helm.

## Blue Jays 11, Orioles 10

In Baltimore, Randal Grichuk hit a grand slam with two outs in the ninth inning, and Toronto rebounded from an ineffective start by Clay Buchholz to rally past the Orioles.

Grichuk's 30th home run highlighted a six-run ninth that began with Toronto trailing 9-5. The shot came off Miguel Castro (1-3), who was charged with all six runs.

## Reds 3, Cubs 2, 10 innings

In Chicago, José Iglesias had an RBI double in the 10th inning and five Cincinnati pitchers combined for a four-hitter as the Reds recorded their second straight win over the play-off-contending Cubs.

The Cubs and Milwaukee Brewers trail the NL Central-leading St. Louis Cardinals by three games. Chicago and Milwaukee are tied for the second NL wild-card spot, 1½ games behind the Washington Nationals, who hold the first wild card.



# Curry commits to Team USA for 2020 Olympics



**CALIFORNIA**—After Team USA's disastrous seventh-place showing at the 2019 FIBA World Cup, team building for the 2020 Summer Olympics is getting off on the right foot.

Golden State Warriors superstar Stephen Curry has committed to playing for Team USA in the upcoming Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

"That is the plan, for sure," Curry said in an interview with ESPN. "You know, obviously knock on wood, you don't want any injuries or things like that to interfere."

Curry has played for Team USA before, but not in the Olympics. He was on the World Cup teams in 2010 and 2014, and both took first place. Curry told ESPN that he's excited to play in his first Olympics.

"Definitely wanna go," Curry said. "I've never been on the Olympic team. I've been on two World Cup Championship gold medal teams. But the Olympics is the experience that I want. And next year will hopefully be it."

Curry announcing his intention to play now, just under a year before the Olympics, is a good sign for the team. The recent FIBA World Cup was an embarrassment for Team USA, with many talented, high-profile stars pulling out. The talent drain led to the seventh-place finish, the worst ever for the Americans.

Even though the Olympics tend to draw the big stars, Curry committing now can only have a positive impact going forward. His presence could convince more of the NBA's best and brightest to join the team and avoid another dis-

appointment like the FIBA World Cup.

While no other big stars have committed like Curry has, Draymond Green recently told CNBC that he hopes to play in the Olympics in 2020, and LeBron James told The Athletic in April that playing for Team USA in 2020 is a possibility. Curry knows that the key to Team USA's success is getting the NBA's most talented players to join him on the court.

"We're still the best," Curry told ESPN. "If we get the guys that are supposed to be there, in terms of, you know, representing us in the Olympic stage and the commitment's been there, and I think it'll be there next year."

## Nets have new owner, CEO

Meanwhile, the Brooklyn Nets have a new owner and a new CEO.

Alibaba co-founder Joe Tsai completed his purchase of the team and Barclays Center on Wednesday, then announced that he had hired former Turner Broadcasting President David Levy to oversee both.

Tsai's purchase of the Nets was unanimously approved Wednesday by the NBA's board of governors. He spent nearly \$3.5 billion for the team and the arena, a record sale for a U.S. sports franchise.

The native of Taiwan already had purchased 49% of the team from Russian billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov in 2018, with the option to become controlling owner in 2021, but pushed up that timeline for full ownership of the team.

"In addition to being a passionate basketball fan, Joe is one of China's pre-eminent in-



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) is defended by Toronto Raptors guard Fred VanVleet, right, and Serge Ibaka during the second half of Game 3 of basketball's NBA Finals in Oakland, Calif., Wednesday, June 5, 2019.

ternet, media and e-commerce pioneers and his expertise will be invaluable in the league's efforts to grow the game in China and other global markets," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said in a statement.

The Nets will travel to China next month to play two preseason games against the Los Angeles Lakers at the start of a season filled with excitement for the team. They signed Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving in July, adding two superstars to a team that made the playoffs last season.

Silver called the Nets a "thriving team, well-positioned for the future," and Tsai praised general manager Sean Marks and coach Kenny Atkinson for building it.

"They established the culture, developed talent that others couldn't see, and made Brooklyn the place where the best players want to play," Tsai said.

Tsai, the executive vice chairman of the Alibaba Group, the Chinese e-commerce giant, paid \$2.35 billion for the Nets and about \$1 billion in a separate transaction for the arena. The team price surpassed the \$2.2 billion that Tilman Fertitta paid for the NBA's Houston Rockets and that David Tepper spent for the NFL's Carolina Panthers.

Levy will also serve as president of J Tsai Sports, the sports investment and holding vehicle controlled by Tsai whose portfolio includes the WNBA's New York Liberty, as well as other sports teams and companies in both the U.S. and overseas. Levy worked closely with the NBA while at Turner and in his new role will oversee all business, revenue, strategy and operations for the Nets and Barclays Center.



Tiger Woods is playing another skins game with two big differences. This one is in Japan and will be broadcast live around the world by Discovery-owned GOLFTV.

The exhibition is called "The Challenge: Japan Skins," and it will be played Oct. 21 leading into the PGA Tour's first official event in Japan. It features four of golf's biggest names from each of their continents—Woods, Rory McIlroy of Europe, Jason Day of Australia and Japanese star Hideki Matsuyama.

"This is our opportunity to think outside the box," said Alex Kaplan, president and general manager of Discovery Golf. "We'll put guys in different situations, and it will be a surprise to them what they are. There's going to be some fun tweaks these guys aren't used to."

## Woods part of 'Japan Skins' game to be shown live worldwide

Woods played four times in the original Skins Game, which had become a Thanksgiving weekend tradition in the California desert until it began losing star power and was held for the last time in 2008, three years after Woods' final appearance. He never won in four tries.

"After discussing 'The Challenge' with Discovery and GOLFTV, I wanted to be a part of it," Woods said. "I haven't been back to Japan since 2006 and the golf fans there are some of the best in the world. It's a unique format and a top field with Rory, Jason and Hideki. I can't wait to play against them on a global stage."

Woods signed a deal with Discovery last December in which he gives exclusive content to GOLFTV. Discovery last year agreed to a 12-year, \$2 billion deal with the PGA

Tour to deliver golf content direct to consumers in 220 markets outside the United States.

Because the PGA Tour is sanctioning the event, it will be shown on Golf Channel in U.S. markets.

The biggest challenge was figuring out when to play.

Because the event will be shown on demand for free around the world — fans in the UK and Ireland will be have to subscribe because of existing rights deals — Discovery Golf determined that a 1 p.m. start at Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club in Chiba would be the best fit.

That means it will start at midnight Sunday in the eastern U.S. after the NFL is over, and 9 p.m. on the West Coast. It will start in the early morning of Europe. Australia is one hour ahead of Japan.

"There's not a perfect time,"

Kaplan said. "You map out where the key markets are and what's possible on the course and do your best possible. It's where you drive the most viewership, and then you look at when the sun goes down. We could have started in the morning, but Japan and Asia are important markets for Discovery. We had to make sure we had it at a meaningful time. The lunch hour does that, particularly for streaming."

Kaplan said some 3,000 fans are expected on the course, many of them as guests, others allowed to buy tickets. Because of limited October daylight, he said lights would be erected on the last few holes if needed.

McIlroy, who has a similar partnership as Woods with NBC Sports Group, was intrigued by the format and the field.

"Playing with Hideki on his home turf, Tiger coming back to Japan with a green jacket, the motivation is certainly there for me," McIlroy said. "And I'm a huge fan of the skins format. I love the way it rewards attacking play and think it suits my game quite well. The other fun thing about skins is how you find yourself rooting for the other guys if you're not in a position to win the hole."

Players need to win a hole outright, or it carries over to the next hole. Total prize money is \$350,000—\$10,000 per skin for the opening six holes, \$20,000 for the next six holes, \$20,000 through the 17th hole, and \$100,000 for the 18th. There also will be charitable component.

Still to be revealed are the announcing crews. Kaplan said the Japan Skins will be

produced in Japanese and English.

It starts what figures to be a big week in golf-crazed Japan. The Japan Skins is at the front end of the ZoZo Championship, the first official PGA Tour event in Japan, with a field expected to include Woods, McIlroy, Matsuyama, Day, Justin Thomas and possibly Jordan Spieth. Japan is in the middle of a three-week Asia swing, with South Korea at the front end and the HSBC Champions in Shanghai as the anchor.

Kaplan said more specialty events on GOLFTV are likely.

"We want to continue doing things like this, presenting golf in new and interesting ways," Kaplan said. "I'm super excited about the production. We're not going to rely on each player to tell their story. We'll make it fun and interactive, but we'll help these guys be fun and interactive."



# Pats defense has been cohesive, dominant



**FOXBOROUGH, Mass.** (AP)—With 76 points through two games, plenty has gone right for the New England Patriots.

Offense has certainly been a big part of their dominance, but their defense has been equally as impressive in wins over Pittsburgh and Miami.

New England (2-0) has the NFL's stingiest defense thus far, allowing just 246 yards and 1.5 points per game.

Next up is a visit from a 0-2 New York Jets team that is reeling at the quarterback position. Starter Sam Darnold is out recovering from mononucleosis and backup Trevor Siemian was sidelined for the season with an ankle injury during their loss to Cleveland on Monday night.

It means New York, which opened as an 18-point underdog to New England, will now put the ball in the hands of third-stringer Luke Falk for Sunday's matchup against the league's top defense.

The Patriots are the only team in the NFL yet to give up a touchdown and are just the fourth team in the Super Bowl era to allow three points or fewer through their first two games (previous one was the 1981 Buffalo Bills).

The Jets have scored only one offensive touchdown this season.

"It's always a challenge," Jets coach Adam Gase said. "Put the rankings aside, anytime you go against a coach



(Bill) Belichick-coached defense it's extremely tough. There's a lot of variety. When you get to the game there's always gonna be something that's new."

Two big reasons are the play of the Patriots secondary, which has a league-high five interceptions and their linebackers, which have gotten a boost from the return of Jamie Collins while seeing resur-

gence by Dont'a Hightower.

"I give credit to the guys. They do a good job of preparing each week, so they all are ready in every situation, and in any position we put them in," linebackers coach DeMarcus Covington said.

Collins and Hightower are tied for first and second, respectively, on the team in tackles and have been huge facets of a run defense that

hasn't given up a play of more than 9 yards.

Belichick said Collins has only gotten more versatile since his first stint with New England from 2013 to 2016 before being traded to the Browns.

"Jamie's a very special player. He's very smart, instinctive. He's got a great nose for the ball in the passing game and in the running

game," Belichick said.

"He's got the physical skills to play at the end of the line and off the line, to blitz, to play in coverage, play against the run and play against the pass. So we're able to do different things with him and he's been productive and effective in all of them."

By shutting down Pittsburgh and Miami's rushing attacks, the Patriots were able

AP  
Miami Dolphins quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick (14) ducks as New England Patriots outside linebacker Elandon Roberts (52) and defensive tackle Danny Shelton (71) close in for a sack during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

to make both teams one-dimensional.

That forced Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and Dolphins quarterbacks Ryan Fitzpatrick and Josh Rosen to take chances.

In Miami's case it ended in four interceptions. Collins hauled in two off them, returning one for a 69-yard touchdown. Cornerback Stephon Gilmore also posted the first pick-6 of his career, grabbing a fourth-quarter pass by Fitzpatrick and taking it back 54 yards for the score.

Gilmore's play was made possible by linebacker Kyle Van Noy, who put pressure on Fitzpatrick and forced him into a quick throw.

"I always wanted a pick-6," Gilmore said. "I had one my rookie year but they called it back. So I finally got on the board."

Safety Devin McCourty, who also had an interception against Miami, said the challenge going forward is maintaining the consistency they've had over the first two games.

Each of the past two seasons the defense has started slowly and improved throughout the year.

The way NFL quarterbacks having been going down or losing their jobs just two weeks into the season, it's no stretch to wonder who's next.

The list already is way too long and includes some surprises. Drew Brees and Ben Roethlisberger hardly ever miss a game, yet Brees is out until sometime in November with thumb damage, and Big Ben is done for the year with an elbow injury. Both required surgery.

Nick Foles' season was shortened in Week 1 for Jacksonville. The Jets' Darnold contracted mononucleosis and probably won't be back until mid-October, and his sub, Trevor Siemian, tore angle ligaments on a brutal tackle by Cleveland's Myles Garrett.

Cam Newton's status is dicey because he has aggravated a mid-foot sprain. And don't forget that Andrew Luck retired from the Colts in the preseason after an accumulation of injuries.

At least Eli Manning didn't have anything hurt except perhaps his feelings when he

## Brees, Roethlisberger, Foles, Darnold. Who's next to go?

was benched Tuesday in favor of his heir apparent, first-round draft pick Daniel Jones.

Is being sidelined an epidemic among quarterbacks? Well, in 2018, the Eagles, Redskins, Panthers, Buccaneers, 49ers, Cardinals, Titans, Jaguars, Dolphins, Ravens, Bengals, Browns and Jets used backups at various times.

Several were because of poor performances by the starters. Others, like with the Giants and Jones, were getting the future into the present on the field.

But Philadelphia, Washington, Carolina, San Francisco, Tennessee, Cincinnati and New York made switches because of injuries. The Panthers probably wish they had shelved Newton and his ailing throwing shoulder much earlier than they did as they dropped seven straight after a 6-2 first-half record.

With quarterback by far the key position on offense in the current NFL, here's a look at how each team that

was forced into or decided to make a change might deal with the situation.

### SAINTS

Losing a certain Hall of Famer such as Brees is a monstrous hit, yet the Saints might be in better shape than the other clubs whose No. 1 is on the sidelines. Teddy Bridgewater, while not the same QB he was before a massive knee injury cost him basically two seasons, is a quality backup. Sean Payton will adjust the offense as need be, he has Alvin Kamara and Michael Thomas to aid Bridgewater, and the New Orleans defense is gritty.

No, shootouts such as New Orleans fans are accustomed to won't fit the Saints without Brees. But the NFC South isn't looking too formidable, and Bridgewater should be able to keep the team in the playoff conversation until Brees returns.

### STEELERS

Last year, Pittsburgh was quite high on Josh Dobbs

as Roethlisberger's backup. Then second-year pro Mason Rudolph beat out Dobbs, who then was traded to Jacksonville after Foles went down.

Rudolph is inexperienced, but looked comfortable enough after replacing Big Ben in last Sunday's loss to Seattle. He's athletic enough, will operate behind a usually solid line and has JuJu Smith-Schuster as his game breaker. But to expect a lot against the unbeaten 49ers on the road, the stingy Ravens at home and the Chargers in LA before their bye week is unfair.

### JAGUARS

Foles was the best backup quarterback in the league while in Philadelphia, one of the rare No. 2s to guide his team to a Super Bowl title. He parlayed it into a massive contract to solve the Jags' quarterback quandary. That didn't last a full game, and Jacksonville has turned things over to rookie Gardner Minshew, the 178th selection in the draft.

### JETS

Like the Jags, the J-E-T-S thought they had solved their quarterback woes when they drafted Darnold third overall in 2018. He struggled early in his rookie campaign, but came on after missing three starts with a foot problem. With new coach Adam Gase, a supposed QB guru, Darnold's 2019 looked bright.

Now, he's looking at recovering from a strength-sapping disease that can take months to completely shake.

Siemian was signed for similar scenarios, and he might have been a good choice. We won't know after Garrett's hit.

So Luke Falk takes over. His "claim to fame" might be he preceded Minshew in Mike Leach's pass-first attack at Washington State.

### PANTHERS

Newton suddenly has become brittle, leaving do-everything RB Christian McCaffrey as the only real weapon, and

defenses are wise to that. Un-tested Kyle Allen steps in, and the Panthers (0-2) might be able to rekindle their deep passing game that basically has disappeared with Newton.

Carolina's best chance to stay relevant is based on stud LB Luke Kuechly and the defense resembling the unit that helped carry the team to the 2015 NFC championship.

### GIANTS

Coach Pat Shurmur felt the most accomplished quarterback in franchise history couldn't be a winner this year, so it makes sense to try the sixth overall draft pick, Jones. Shurmur almost certainly recognizes his job security faded with each loss behind Manning. At least if Shurmur can make progress with Jones, the coach could be around beyond this season.

Meanwhile, Giants fans screaming for the kid to play have their wish. And Giants fans still screaming at taking Jones so high in the draft will likely make rash and rushed opinions about him.



# Pardz eases past Docomo Pacific



By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

Pardz Ballers came out victorious against Docomo Pacific, 75-61, during their make-up game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball

**KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
Docomo Pacific's Shane Deleon Guerrero, left, is fouled by Pardz Ballerz' Ronald Romo during the first half of their make-up game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Wednesday at the Civic Center Court.

League last Wednesday at the Civic Center Court.

Pardz Ballers played a better offense in the first quarter to take a 19-12 advantage and padded its lead as the game progressed. Pardz also employed tough defense on Docomo, resulting to several steals, which the winning team managed to turn into baskets.

What Pardz Ballers lacked in size, in comparison to its opponents, the team made up for with agility with Lucky Jose and Joseph Torres running from one end of the court to the other to score on fastbreak

plays. Jose showed the way with his 21 points, while Torres contributed 14.

Shane Deleon Guerrero had 22 for Docomo, while Tony Diaz chipped in 19.

In another make-up game last Wednesday, Mawati was ahead of RNV Construction after two quarters, 46-34, when the game was cut short due to the weather.

Jerome Directo and Paul Quizon teamed up for Mawati in the first half of the game after scoring 9 points each.



Rueda led the way for RNV Construction after logging 11 points, while Andy Mortos and Randy Odicta had 8 points each.

**Pardz Ballers 75**—Jose 21, Torres 14, Santos 8, Hipolito 8, Galulu 8, Bernardo 8, Romo 4, Sablan 2, Barrios 2.

**Docomo Pacific 61**—Deleon Guerrero 22, Diaz 19, Mendiola 8, Sanciango 3, McCale 2, Alvarez 2, Sablan 2, Grow 2, Lizama 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 19-12, 38-27, 59-50, 75-61.

## SIS to hold Gecko 5000 on Sept. 28

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

Saipan International School will be holding the Gecko 5000 Invitational in Marpi on Sept. 28.

The race will begin at the Last Command Post and end near Banzai Cliff. The course will follow a loop along the road and through the jungle, finishing approximately 300 meters from the end of the Banzai Cliff Memorial.

Miles 1 and 2 will be marked and the course will consist of 50% grass and nature trail with some rough terrain and single-track lanes. Approximately one kilometer of the run is along the main road.

The Department of Public Safety will be providing support during the race, while volunteers will be stationed strategically along the course to guide runners or provide assistance, if needed.

Registration packets will be available at SIS or at the Last Command Post. All runners must be at the site by 6:20am.

Team trophies will be awarded, as well as medals



SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PHOTO  
Agape Christian School students run in Marpi with the Banzai Cliff as backdrop during last year's Gecko 5000.

for the Top 3 boys and girls.

There must be one boys team and or one girls team per school to qualify for the team awards and each school is allowed a maximum of 6 runners (with bibs)

The Gecko 5000 will also

double as a qualifier for the 2019 All Schools Cross Country Championships. Non-bibbed runners will qualify for the

All-Schools Championships, but will not count for team scoring

Meanwhile, SIS is set to face off with Saipan Community School as they hold the Run for the Coconut on Sept. 26.

The race will start at 2pm with the course beginning and ending at the beach path near The Shack.



### TOP

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his team catch up with TDI, but his efforts fell short.

### Joeten 1 89, Coca-Cola 49

In the second game, Joeten 1 walloped Coca-Cola.

Joeten leaned on a 20-5 scoring spurt in the first quarter to set up the 40-point win.

Coca-Cola never got out from the deep hole, as it still failed to hit double figures in the second and third periods. Coca-Cola was held to 7 markers in the second and 9 in the third, allowing Joeten 1 to open a huge 69-21 advantage.

It was game over after that, as Joeten 1 let its guard down in the final quarter, giving Coca-Cola a chance to score garbage points.

Kevin Kabiriel, Ernest Duenas, and Patrick Rotap delivered for Joeten 1 after registering 21, 18, and 16 points, respectively.

### First Game

**TDI 66**—Rabasto 22, Reyes 12, Barbo 9, Velasco 9, Barros 5, Arreza 5, Pollisco 2.

**Joeten 2 57**—Cruz 20, Agulto 12, Mafnas 8, Madrid 4, Montoya 4, William 2, Doria 2, Garcia 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 22-13, 40-24, 58-33, 66-57

### Second Game

**Joeten 1 89**—Kabiriel 21, Duenas 18, Rotap 16, Lauron 9, Maratita 8, Sabile 7, Lilles 3, Quichocho 2.

**Coca-Cola 49**—Capalad 20, Felix 10, San Nicolas 5, Estoque 4, Bisanen 4, Tammy 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 20-5, 44-12, 69-21, 89-49.

### CNMI

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round-robin play will advance to the finals that will be played in September next year.

The Teen Ayuyus are hoping to score for the third straight time to end their campaign in the qualifier on a positive note. Kohtaroto Goto gave the CNMI its first goal in the tournament last Monday after hitting the board in their match versus Brunei.

### U14 national team tryouts

Meanwhile, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association

will kick off a series of tryouts for the CNMI Boys U14 National Team on Sept. 25 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The tryouts will be held every Wednesday from 4pm to 6pm and will run until Oct. 23. Only U.S. citizen players born in 2005 and 2006 are allowed in the series of tryouts, which NMIFA is holding to select the CNMI's representatives to the East Asian Football Federation U15 Football Festival next year.

For more information, contact the NMIFA office at 235-0173 or send email to playsoccer@nmifa.com.

### NMBA

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complex has been fixed, too, making the badminton facility safe and ready for competitions and practices.

"I was thrilled to see the renovations/improvements in the facility, especially the synthetic flooring. After Yutu, we're not able to play for months and it's tough because we are getting ready for the Samoa Pacific Games then," Guerrero said.

"When we started practicing, the roof is leaking, so it's still not safe to play. Now, we have a safe and pretty facility and we would like to thank the NMBA leadership for giving us an even

better court. I am sure more people will be encouraged to play, especially the kids because we now have a much improved facility," the CNMI Badminton Team captain said.

NMBA president Merlie Tolentino said that major repairs at the facility were completed early this month.

"We are pleased to inform our members that they can now play at the NMBA courts. We are also planning to hold a tournament before the year ends, so we can have something for our players and resume our program," Tolentino said.

Besides the local competition, NMBA will also participate in the Badminton In-

vitational Guam 2019, which is set from Oct. 11 to 13 at the John F. Kennedy High School Gymnasium. The Guam tournament will feature competitions in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles in U17 age group, open division, and class C (recreational)

According to Tolentino, 14 players have committed to play in Guam, including the members of the CNMI Team that saw action in the XVI Pacific Games in Samoa last July. Joining Guerrero on the national squad that finished fifth in the team event were Andreu Galvez, Nicole Malasarte, Janelle and Jordan Pangilinan, and Dan-

iel and Ezekiel Macario. The seven CNMI bets also played in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles events against the host island, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Fiji, Tahiti, and Tonga, making a respectable debut in the Pacific Games.

Meanwhile, the re-opening of the NMBA court was one of the important steps the association has taken in its bid to revive the sport, as the CNMI prepares for the hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

Badminton is one of the events lined up for the Mini Games, joining athletics, baseball, beach volleyball, golf, and triathlon on the short list.



Angels foil  
Yanks' bid to  
clinch AL East

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# Saipan Tribune Sports



Curry commits  
to Team USA for  
2020 Olympics

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Another goal for CNMI

## Top Development beats Joeten 2



**KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
Top Development, Inc.'s Sean Rabasto, right, drives against a Joeten 2 defender during the fourth quarter of their game in the JP World caging last Tuesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

day at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

TDI outgunned Joeten 2 in the first three quarters to build a 58-33 advantage and withstand Joeten's rally in the fourth. Top Development scored 20-plus points in the opening period for a 22-13 lead and had 18 apiece in the second and third, while Joeten 2's offense continued to drop, as it made only 11 and 9 markers.

The 25-point margin going into the final canto was enough for TDI to overcome Joeten 2's 24-point output in the fourth frame.

Sean Rabasto led TDI with his 22 points, while Jerome Reyes added 12. Darwin Barbo and Raymond Velasco had 9 apiece.

John Paul Cruz paced Joeten 2 with his 20 points, making 11 of them in the final quarter in an attempt to help

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**By ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER

The CNMI Boys U16 National Team made it to the board for the second straight time, scoring in the first half of their game against Indonesia in the Group G Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2020 Qualifiers last Wednesday at the Madya Stadium in Jakarta.



**ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION PHOTO**  
The CNMI's Jeremiah Diaz, left, and Oliver Fajardo keep a close eye on Indonesian player during their game in the Group G on Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2020 Qualifiers last Wednesday at the Madya Stadium in Jakarta.



Top Development Inc. defeated Joeten 2, 66-57, during the first game in the 2018 JP World Cup. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Tues-

## NMBA opens renovated badminton courts

**By ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER

When XVI Pacific Games participant Nate Guerrero came to play at the Northern Marianas Badminton Association's courts at the TSL Sports Complex, a "brand new" facility greeted him and other players.

The facility went through major renovation after sustaining massive damage from Super Typhoon Yutu in October last year. A new flooring was installed, along with the lights and nets. Roofing at the sports

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**ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
Players have a scrimmage at the newly-renovated Northern Marianas Badminton Association courts at the TSL Sports Complex last Tuesday.

Forward Jim Maniago found the back of the net in the 45th minute, thanks to goalie Merrick Toves, who got out of the penalty area and kicked the ball that headed past the former and two Indonesian defenders. Maniago then beat the two Indonesian players in a foot race and unloaded the shot just before the defender to his right moved in. Goalkeeper Imade Putra Kaicen was the last line on defense for Indonesia, as he left his spot, reaching for the ball to his right, but missed it, as the leather bounced to the goal area and looped in.

Maniago's conversation came after Indonesia registered six goals in the first half. The host country added nine more in the second half to complete its domination of

the Teen Ayuyus. Midfielder Marselino Ferdinan led the In-

sons with his five goals (eighth, 51st, 53rd, 63rd, and 90th minute), while forward Ahmad Atha-lah Araithan added four (16th, 18th, 26th, and 42nd minute). Forwards Ruy Arianto and Wahyu Pratama chipped in two goals apiece, while midfielder Aditiya Daffa Al Haqi and defender Mikael Alredo Tata contributed one each.

With the lopsided win, Indonesia boosted its chances for the No. 1 spot in the qualifier, as it improved to a 2-0-0 win-draw-loss record—the same mark China has. The CNMI fell to a 0-0-3 slate and will play its last game against China today. The Philippines (1-0-2) and Brunei (1-0-1) are the other teams in Group G where the top finisher after the

**See CNMI on Page 31**

